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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

Quarterly Record.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The thanks of the Committee are given to the Hon. Miss Cust for a useful parcel of ready-made clothing; to Mrs. Barry, for a box of worn clothing; to the Hon. and Rev. E. W. Denison, for a set of lawn tennis, to be sold for the benefit of the Society; to the Rev. J. Hildyard, for two volumes of "Ingoldsby Letters," with the like benevolent purpose; to a Friend, for a parcel of soiled books for school libraries; to Mrs. Dickens, for two bags of clothing; to Mrs. Murton, for back numbers of magazines; to Miss M. Ripley, for ready-made garments; to Miss Brandt, for a similar parcel; to Mrs. F. Duff, for a parcel of worn children's clothing; to Mrs. Bazley, for a box of most useful warm clothing; to Mrs. Perceval Wright, for boys' shirts; to Miss Chancellor, for a box of children's clothing; to Mrs. James, for ready-made garments, socks, &c.; to Miss E. Wright, for a parcel of magazines; to the Committee of the Sunday School Union, for a most acceptable grant of almanacks and New Year's addresses; and to the Committee of the Religious Tract Society, for a large grant of picture cards, and for a good supply of sheet and other almanacks; and to C. A. Loddar, Esq., for six water-colour drawings of scenes on the Scotch coast, to be sold, and the proceeds given to the Society.

THE FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,
AND
Thirty-first Annual Distribution of Scholars' Prizes,
WILL TAKE PLACE IN EXETER HALL,
ON MONDAY EVENING, MAY 12th, 1884.
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.,
Will take the Chair at Six o'clock precisely.

The 700 Old Scholars taking Prizes on this occasion will form a Choir, and sing a Selection of Pieces under the direction of Mr. J. STODDART.

The Prize-takers, with their Teachers, will kindly attend the Rehearsals, to be held as follows:—

FIELD LANE SCHOOLS, Vine Street, Clerkenwell Road, E.C., Saturday, April 5, at 4.30; Wednesday, April 16, at 8.15; Saturday, April 19, at 4; Thursday, May 1, at 8.15; and Saturday, May 10, at 4. KING EDWARD RAGGED SCHOOL, King Edward Street, St. Mary Street, Whitechapel Road, E., Monday, April 7, at 8.15; Wednesday, April 9, at 8.15; Wednesday, April 23, at 8.15; Saturday, April 26, at 4; Wednesday, April 30, at 8.15; and Wednesday, May 7, at 8.15. PARISH INFANT'S, TUFF, Westminster Bridge Road (near the Obelisk, Blackfriars Road), Tuesday, April 8, at 8.15; Tuesday, April 22, at 8.15; Tuesday, April 29, at 8.15; and Tuesday, May 6, at 8.15.

THE GENERAL AND LAST REHEARSAL
For all the Scholars and Teachers, in EXETER HALL, on Monday Afternoon, at 3 o'clock, May 12, 1884.

SPECIAL MEETINGS FOR PRAYER
will be held in the afternoon at Ragged Schools and Missions on Sunday, May 11, 1884, to express thankfulness to Almighty God for the success of the past, and to plead for the Divine blessing on the Anniversary Meeting in Exeter Hall, on Monday, May 12, and upon the work of the Society in the future.

Teachers and Workers will greatly oblige by making this Meeting known in their respective Schools and by sending, when convenient, a short notice of it to the Office.

J. Folyar photo. Joseph Brown sc.

Shaffenburg

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

APRIL, 1884.

APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

Words as pregnant as they were truthful were those uttered by Lord Shaftesbury at the Mansion House banquet, when he said that the principle was sound in each case, but that want of support was the sole reason why all the beneficent movements referred to had not issued in larger benefits.

This is especially true of Ragged Schools. The early promoters of these centres of gospel light were so impressed with the paramount necessity of doing something, and doing it at once, that without waiting for model buildings or perfect machinery they secured the nearest tenement, and set to work with whatever makeshift apparatus lay readiest to hand.

Thus it was that the adapted cottage, the improvised workshop, the reformed hay-loft, the translated cowshed or stable, the disused conventicle, the whilom skittle-ground, or the covered back garden, became rich with hallowed memories of noble service for God and man, and of trophies won from the surging sea of wretchedness around.

As time went on some of these consecrated spots were cleared for buildings better fitted in every way for the work undertaken, and where the local friends manifested this spirit of faith and enterprise their successors of to-day have the advantage of buildings in some degree suited to the development of agencies which invariably sprung up around the Parent Ragged School.

As a rule, however, the schools were always in a state of impecuniosity—a chronic "hand-to-mouth" existence, and the Union was never so amply provided with resources as to be able

to afford the proper stimulating assistance. What was essential in the way of alteration and repairs was attended to, and nothing beyond. No wonder that after some forty years' continuance of the work many of the institutions fostered by the Union should be in urgent need of restoration, if not of extension. Again, leases, however long, will lapse, and buildings will decay, and demand re-erection, and there are several schools now needing to be thus rebuilt. The clearances also effected of late years in some of the most crowded parts of the metropolis have caused changes in the position of schools, which had to be met as they arose. Moreover, it is now more generally recognised that all such places should be bright, cleanly, and cheerful, with good sanitary arrangements and ventilation, so that the poor may be attracted within, and lifted for a time out of their depressing surroundings. The Committee of the Union have long been aware of the present and future necessities of the movement, and wishful that such substantial help could be given to the affiliated schools as should tend to place them in a condition more worthy of their importance and usefulness.

How these wishes were to be fulfilled it was not easy to divine, as the ordinary income of the Union was insufficient to meet the regular grants to the schools, upon the promise of which so many of the operations, and indeed the very existence of the institutions, in some instances depend. As an illustration of this, it may be remarked that £1,500 have been received from legacies from April of last year, and all this exceptional income has been absorbed to meet the ordinary demands. The present was thought by the Committee to be a fitting time for a special appeal for £20,000, which sum it was considered not any too large for the consolidation and extension of the movement in the way indicated. The writer of the "Bitter Cry," whilst seeking to evoke legislative interference, contended that the immediate establishment of missions by Christian churches would do much to mitigate the sorrows of the very poor. This was in other words urging an extension of Ragged Schools, for the Ragged School has always been, and more especially so of late years, a Home Mission to the very poorest and most destitute of our population; indeed, the term "Ragged" can only be justified by the fact that none are excluded by their poverty and raggedness.

It was naturally thought that if additional agencies were to be undertaken, those already in existence, and which had done good service in the past, ought to be strengthened and sustained. It seemed a case of, "This ought ye to have done, and not left the other undone."

This view of the matter engaged the earnest attention of the Committee, and the result of its prayerful deliberation was the preparation, by Mr. H. R. Williams, of a sober statement of something attempted, something done, during the past forty years by the Ragged Schools and Missions of the Ragged School Union, which it was decided to issue widely in the faith and belief that the assistance would be forthcoming from all good patriots and good Christians. Lord Shaftesbury penned a cordial note to accompany the statement as under:—

"December, 1883.

"Having known and watched the Ragged Schools from their very beginning, and having during many years devoted day and nights to the advancement of their interests, I conscientiously assert that I believe their existence, in full vigour, to be, in the strongest sense of the word, absolutely essential to the saving from sin and misery tens of thousands of children at present in the most degraded and unhappy condition.

"SHAFTESBURY."

It is stated with regret that the result of the effort thus far has not equalled the expectations formed, and the receipts fall far short of the suggested total. The declaration of this fact does not hinder us from mentioning some things that call for the warmest expressions of gratitude, and which can be rightly regarded as direct answers to prayer. Many donors have responded liberally, and some for the first time. A large number of new friends have been secured for Ragged Schools, whose sympathies and assistance will bear fruit in future years. Another feature of note is the large number of small subscriptions from all sorts and conditions of men. These items may not add much to the sum total, but they indicate a widespread sympathy and a desire to assist. To each and to all the Committee tender most grateful and heartfelt thanks. The letters received have not unfrequently been most cheering. What, for instance, could be more inspiring than the following from a little boy?—

"DEAR SIR,—I read lately an account of 'Forty Years' Mission Work among the Poor of London,' and it interested me greatly in the Ragged

School Union. I have Christian parents and a happy home myself, and I do want to do something to help the ragged girls and boys to come to Jesus. Though I cannot do much, yet I can always pray for them, and I will, for I am very sorry for them, and I do want Jesus to make them happy, as He has me. I send all I can just now. I do wish it were more, but it may do some good, and I pray that it will. They will always have my prayers."

Or another from Norfolk as under :—

"DEAR SIR,—I have just been reading 'The Dens of London,' and after I had read its many tales of suffering, and also of the good done by Ragged School teachers, I thought that I, though I am only a boy of 14½ years, home from Marlborough for the Christmas vacation, might contribute my share, though it is but a small one, towards rescuing boys and girls of my own age from a life of theft, drunkenness, and crime. One of my sisters is at present in a lady's home in the east of London, and she and her colleagues labour among the factory girls and dock men. I have got a brother, too, who is the vicar of a poor parish near London, and I therefore hear more about the slums of London than most boys of my age; so, sir, knowing that you will spend the money that I enclose in a good cause,

"E. V. S."

An artist in Scotland expressed his sympathy by the gift of six water-colour paintings from his own hand to be sold for the benefit of Ragged Schools. In one or two instances friends who formerly subscribed, and discontinued under the impression of non-necessity, have renewed their subscriptions.

Amid these tokens of encouragement, the Committee are determined, God helping them, to go forward in the great work, humbly desiring that the trial of faith may work patience, and that patience may have its perfect work.

The Lord Mayor has kindly granted the use of the Egyptian Hall, in the Mansion House, at an early date for a meeting on behalf of Ragged Schools. This with other efforts, it is hoped, will do something to touch the springs of benevolence and sympathy, and with firm trust in Him whose work it is, the Committee will go hopefully forward.

Those of our readers who have not already responded to the appeal, we would again beseech to assist by their prayers and their means.

CIVIC HONOURS TO LORD SHAFTESBURY.

On Thursday, 28th February, a meeting of the Court of Common Council was held at the Guildhall, the Lord Mayor, M.P., presiding. There were present at the formation of the Court—Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, M.P., Alderman Sir T. Gabriel, Bart., Alderman Sir T. Dakin, Bart., Alderman Sir A. Lusk, Bart., Alderman Sir F. W. Truscott, Bart., Mr. Alderman Nottage, Alderman Sir R. Hanson, Mr. Alderman De Keyser, Mr. Alderman Waterlow, Mr. Alderman Whitehead, and upwards of 160 Common Councilmen.

Mr. T. Loveridge (chairman of the City Lands Committee) moved: "That the freedom of this City, in a gold box of the usual value, be presented to the Right Honourable Anthony Ashley-Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., D.C.L., in testimony of the esteem and admiration of this Court, in recognition of his lordship's lifelong and successful labours on behalf of the young, the suffering, the degraded, and the oppressed, and the devotion by him of high position, wealth, time, and influence in the alleviation of human suffering, both at home and abroad." He said: My Lord Mayor,—On a recent occasion, when I had the honour of presenting to the Court a resolution somewhat similar in character to the present, it had relation to a venerable member of the Jewish community—to-day it is a venerable member of the Christian Church; and, appropriately enough, these two great apostles of humanity will stand side by side on the record of illustrious men whom the City have delighted to honour and appropriate, in another sense, for the sympathy of their life-work has brought them close together, and no more true and devoted friends could be found than Montefiore and Shaftesbury. What a tempting field unfolds itself before a speaker when he has to deal with the devotion and work of the noble earl whose name is before us! And it is because of this, and because the life of Lord Shaftesbury is an open book known and read of all men, that I will studiously avoid the temptation. Better far that a life so illustrious, so brilliant, should stand out in all the lustre of its own brightness. Yet a moment to justify your intention. Now nearly sixty years ago—a period antecedent to the birth of many amongst us—the then Lord Ashley entered upon his Parliamentary career, and began that righteous warfare from which he has never once retreated—a warfare against wrong and oppression in every form—a warrior without armour, save the breastplate of justice and a good conscience, a living, breathing commentary on the words of the bard, "Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just." His earliest efforts were on behalf of poor children of tender years working in the mines, females in a degrading state of work unfitted

and unsuited to their sex, then the children in calico-print works, then factory labour, then the dwellings of the poor and the wretched lodging-houses of the very poor, and a long catalogue of work, all tending to benefit his fellow-creatures—a work carried on against much opposition at times. But the resolute character of the man may be gathered from the concluding words of a speech he made in a debate on one of his most important measures, the Ten Hours Bill, and the utterance of sentiments which are not inapplicable to the present time of the nation's history. He said, "If I am defeated I will wait for fairer times and more propitious hours, but I am conscientiously resolved not to abate one iota of my principles, fully convinced that if this mighty nation is to sustain its independence, its glory, and power, the counsels of thinking and unselfish men for the social and religious improvement of all classes of the realm must eventually prevail." There is not a form of slavery, however disguised, but has found in him an unflinching enemy; and there is one great work with which his name will ever be remembered. I mean the Ragged Schools and the Ragged School Union, under whose portals to this time some four hundred thousand of the poor destitute outcasts of the juvenile population have passed. The work done by this blessed agency is described by the noble earl when he says, "We take them in ragged, and send them out clothed; we take them in heathens, we send them out Christians." And what we owe to that noble band of men and women who give their time, energy, patience, and devotion to this regenerating, God-like work, who can tell? Let the improved state of our streets, our courts and slums, and the records of our gaols in the diminution of juvenile offenders, give an answer, and our grateful hearts the thanks. The summary of Lord Shaftesbury's life is summed up in a few words by a writer in the *Times* newspaper, writing immediately after the great meeting held in Guildhall two years ago. He says, "It is given to few men to see so completely the fruit of their labours as he has done. To have changed the whole social condition of England, to have emancipated women and children from a condition worse than slavery, to have reclaimed the neglected, and regenerated the outcast—these are results which give the aged philanthropist a foremost place among those who have laboured for the welfare of England." This Court has, from time to time, either in form of address or freedom, given its recognition to heroes, naval and military, who have drawn the sword in defence of their country. You have given it to heroes in the great world of science; you have given it to liberators of their country from the thraldom of the oppressor. You have given it to philanthropists who have left their wealth for the benefit of the needy and industrious

poor; you have given it to statesmen whose lives have been devoted to their country's service. You have given it to your judges, to mark your sense of the unsullied ermine and the purity of the judicial bench. It is my high privilege to-day to ask you to gild anew the golden page of your great glory-roll by adding to it the name of yet another hero, whose honours have not been won upon the battlefield, amid the slain and the dying, but in the great battle of life, waging war against poverty, and misery, and wretchedness; whose arm has been ever extended to protect the young, raise the fallen, and point the despairing to a brighter and a better hope; whose pathway in life has not been heralded by the trumpet blast or the clang of martial music, but amid the reverent supplications, the tearful gratitude, and the deep, warm heart-throbs of thousands of his fellow-creatures. What a triumphant life-march! And now, in his eighty-third year, this servant of God and man drifts gently toward the shore beyond; and as the sun at evening time, when it sinks below the horizon, throws across the heavens its afterglow of rich colour and radiant tints, the admiration of all who look upon it, so, when the sun of Shaftesbury sinks, it will leave an afterglow full of radiant hues of love and beauty, that will not fade, but remain for the admiration of, and as a stimulus to, men and women of the present and future generations. True, our proffered honour comes late in life, but it has this advantage—the later it comes, the greater the glory and the brighter the halo that surrounds the name of Shaftesbury. Noble man he is by birth, but your tribute of admiration will be given for his noble deeds; and in the language of one of our lyric writers—

> "What is noble? 'tis the finer
> Portion of our mind and heart,
> Linked to something still diviner
> Than mere language can impart;
> Ever prompting, ever seeing
> Some improvement yet to plan,
> To uplift our fellow beings
> And to feel like man for man."

Alderman Sir R. W. CARDEN said he felt highly the honour and distinction of seconding the motion which had been so eloquently made. He did not think the freedom of the City ever was given to one more deserving of it than the Earl of Shaftesbury. The freedom of the City was usually conferred for special services. This freedom would be bestowed for a long and devoted life which Lord Shaftesbury had spent in the service of his country.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

LORD SHAFTESBURY AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

AT the Mansion House, on March 5, a banquet was given by the Lord Mayor (Mr. R. Fowler, M.P.), in honour of the Earl of Shaftesbury, upon whom the freedom of the City of London is shortly to be conferred.

The guests, 300 in number, included the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P., the Bishop of Rochester, the President of the Wesleyan Conference (Rev. T. M'Cullagh), the Hon. Evelyn Ashley, M.P., Mr. Walter, M.P., Sir H. Verney, M.P., the Hon. A. F. Kinnaird, Bishop Perry, Bishop Claughton, Captain the Hon. C. Hobart-Hampden, Alderman Sir R. Carden, M.P., Alderman Sir W. M'Arthur, M.P., Mr. Hugh Mason, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Rigg, the Rev. Dr. Oswald Dykes, Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., Colonel Sir Edmund Henderson, Sir William Muir, Mr. William Fowler, M.P., Admiral Fishbourne, C.B., General Hutchinson, C.B., the Rev. Prebendary Moore, the Rev. E. E. Jenkins, Major-General Davidson, the Rev. Canon Fleming, Mr. A. M'Arthur, M.P., Dr. Gladstone, the Rev. Dr. Allon, Captain Hon. Francis Maude, R.N., the Hon. Henry Tollemache, Sir J. Kennaway, M.P., the Hon. C. Ashley, Archdeacon Farrar, the Hon. H. Noel, Mr. H. Graves, General Sir R. Wilbraham, Alderman Sir H. Knight, Mr. T. Fry, M.P., Sir Rutherford Alcock, Mr. Greer, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Stoughton, General Bruce, Mr. S. Smith, M.P., Admiral Rodd, the Rev. Prebendary Wilson, Mr. Sheriff Smith, Mr. Sheriff Cowan, Mr. Alderman Hadley, Mr. Alderman Staples, Mr. Alderman De Keyser, Mr. Alderman Isaacs, Mr. Alderman Savory, Sir W. T. Charley, Q.C. (Common Serjeant), Mr. B. Scott, Chamberlain of London, Mr. Bompas, Q.C., Mr. Blackwood, C.B., the Rev. J. Mackenzie (British Resident in Bechuanaland), Mr. Cleeve, C.B., Mr. F. A. Bevan, Mr. S. Hoare, Mr. J. H. Tritton, the Rev. Dr. Hannay, Mr. Hugh, Matheson, Mr. Chesson, the Rev. Newman Hall, Mr. G. Hanbury (the Master of the Salters' and Horners' Companies), Mr. J. H. Fordham, Mr. H. R. Williams, General Maclagan, the Rev. J. P. Chown, the Rev. F. E. Wigram, Dr. Leone Levi, Major Sewell, Mr. E. Lionel Scott, the Rev. R. Whittington (Chaplain to the Lord Mayor), Mr. W. J. Soulsby (private secretary), Mr. E. E. Ashby, C.C., Mr. W. A. Bewes, Mr. F. Blennerhasset, Mr. J. H. Buckingham, Dr. R. Cross, Mr. William Fuller, Mr. J. G. Gent, Mr. R. R. Glover, Mr. John E. Gordon, Mr. J. Harris, Mr. S. Haward, Mr. Geo. Hoon, Mr. A. Jepson, Mr. J. H. Lloyd, Mr. W. J. Orsman, Mr. Charles Montague, Mr. Richard Stone, and Messrs. Kirk and Curtis (Secretaries of the Ragged School Union). Grace having been said and the loving cup circulated,

The Lord Mayor, after proposing the toast of the Queen and the health of the Prince and Princess of Wales, proceeded to give the toast of the evening. He explained that it was originally intended that the dinner should be more private than the present banquet, but within the last two or three weeks the Common Council of London had voted the freedom of the City to his illustrious guest, the Earl of Shaftesbury, and it had been determined in consequence that the banquet should be of a more public character. It was a piece of good fortune which he should always remember with the greatest satisfaction that it was his lot to welcome Lord Shaftesbury to the Mansion House, and to convey to him the sentiments of thousands of people all over the world who held him in honour because he had devoted his life to the good of mankind. Two days ago he had presided in an adjoining room over a meeting convened to do honour to a man who did not in his lifetime receive the acknowledgment which was his due. He referred to Lieutenant Waghorn, the promoter of the overland route to India. Speaking of the object of that meeting, the Earl of Derby said to him,

> "See nations, slowly wise and meanly just,
> To buried merit raise the tardy bust."

He was glad that in the case of the Earl of Shaftesbury, to whom he wished long years of health and happiness, no such comment could be made by posterity. Fifty-eight years had passed since the noble earl first entered Parliament. He held office under the great Duke of Wellington, but, feeling that he could be more useful in promoting philanthropic objects than in official life, he did not strive for political advancement but devoted himself to the good of mankind. It was a high and honourable ambition, that of devoting oneself to the service of one's country; but the man who turned aside from the path that led to honour and reward in order to effect philanthropic objects deserved more honour than the greatest statesman whom this country had ever seen. He welcomed the Earl of Shaftesbury as a man who, during a long career, had ever taken the foremost place in every Christian movement. He had invited to meet the noble earl that evening the members of the committees of six or seven societies with which his illustrious guest was connected—namely, the Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews, of which he became president in 1835; the British and Foreign Bible Society, with which he had been connected since 1850; the Church Pastoral Aid Society, with which he became connected in 1836; the Ragged School Union, with which he has been connected since 1844; the Society for the Promotion of Special Religious Services in Theatres and Halls;

the Young Men's Christian Association; and the London City Mission, with which he had been connected since 1835. The Earl of Shaftesbury's connection with those societies was a prominent feature of a career which had been productive of great good. Those who were present that evening rejoiced to see the noble earl in the enjoyment of good health, which enabled him still to take an active part in all the philanthropic and religious movements with which he had been closely associated during the last fifty years. He felt sure he should only be giving expression to the universal wish of that assembly when he uttered a fervent prayer for the continued health, happiness, and usefulness of the Earl of Shaftesbury.

The Earl of Shaftesbury, who was received with cheers, said, —My Lord Mayor and all Gentlemen here assembled,—First let me thank you from my inmost heart for the language in which my health has been proposed, and for the manner in which it has been received by this remarkable assembly. But I must speak frankly, and say that had I known what was designed by the Lord Mayor in this great act of hospitality I should have ventured to decline it, as utterly undeserving of such an honour; and, indeed, I am in an awkward position. I could thank you shortly and heartily for your great kindness, but if I am called on to reply to the speech of the Lord Mayor I am in this dilemma—if I say very little the feeling will be that I might as well have said nothing at all; and if I enlarge on many and various topics, I may be exposed to the charge of egotism. But I must make a choice, and endeavour in as few words as possible (for post-prandial speeches should be brief) to comment, so far as my experience goes, on the past and present state of those interests to which the hearts and minds, my Lord Mayor, of your guests have been so long and so effectually directed. My lord, you have enumerated many agencies, with their happy results, and have attributed to me the lead and guidance of them. Now, if I could accept such large commendation, I must do so—permission being given to compare great men with small—in the language of the Duke of Wellington, which I heard in public and often in private. "It is all very well," said he, "to give me the credit, but what could I have done without such officers and such men to follow me?" Let me begin by observing that during my career nothing has been more striking and consolatory than the discovery of the great amount of latent virtue only waiting to be called forth by invitation and opportunity. Go where you will, you will find in every locality, even the most unpromising in appearance, that, though the bulk of the people may be cold and lifeless, there are some choice spirits, both men and women, full of zeal, activity, talent, and administrative power. There is a double advantage in the employment

of such people; not only are they a blessing to the district, but they are thus brought into beneficial service, instead of falling into the ranks of mischief and disorder. Within the last few months there has been an animated and healthy movement in reference to the state of London, and specially as to the domiciliary condition of a huge mass of its people. It is bad, very bad, disgracefully bad, and many and great things must be done to alleviate it; but, though so bad, it is better than it was. Those who see or hear of the existing misery for the first time are all aghast, and believe that nothing could be worse; but those whose memories and experience carry them back fifty, nay forty, years are simply listening to what they have long known and long attempted to remedy. "The bitter outcry of London" is a just expression. "Outcast London" is precisely the reverse. There is hardly a nook, a corner, however filthy and degraded, that has not been explored, examined, and reported upon. "Sought-out London" would be the more correct expression. Witness the number of agencies formed to correct these evils, witness the number of laws passed for their repression. These laws have not been put fully into action. Wherever they have been so immense benefit has followed. As for agencies, I can mention only one or two as samples of the remainder. The Metropolitan Association is excellent. I myself was called on to preside over a meeting in 1842 for the foundation of a society for the erection of model houses of all kinds for the working-classes, to prove, in which we amply succeeded, that decent houses might be erected at moderate rents, that the people would joyfully accept them, and be morally and physically improved. These were followed by many on an extensive scale. I can mention only a few. Sir Sydney Waterlow and his company have wrought wonders, as have Miss Octavia Hill, the trustees of the Peabody buildings, and the promoters of the suburban cities, Noel Park, Queen's Park, and Shaftesbury Park, where by this time there must be residing some 9,000 families, in a state of comfort, health, and decency such as I have seldom witnessed. Many of these clearances, so pleasant to easy and comfortable people, have been accompanied by much suffering to those who were displaced. The evil of overcrowding has been vastly increased, an evil of which, in all its details, one cannot speak or write with sufficient horror. It is the grand and leading abomination, and must be got rid of at any cost. In one aspect, my Lord Mayor, we are far better than we were fifty years ago. We know a great deal more both of the evils and their remedies. At that time there was absolute torpor and ignorance of what may be termed the social and domestic condition of the people. There was not light enough even to make darkness visible. There were doubtless a few and earnest efforts, but

they were feeble and unknown. Darkness was upon the face of the deep; but when it pleased God to move upon the face of the waters, then came the germs of many movements which have produced so much benefit and comfort to the poorer population. Certainly there broke forth at that time a more general respect for man as such, and a more widespread consideration of his physical and moral rights. That there should be a stop to the barbarous treatment of slaves, though that treatment had been stoutly protested against by a few choice spirits, did not become a national feeling till within the last half-century. The humane and considerate treatment of lunatics became about that time the subject of effective legislation. No one knows better than myself the awful state from which they were delivered and the state in which they are now. Then came the limitation of the hours of labour in mines and collieries, mills, and factories, which has gradually extended to many other branches of industry. Many and various laws have been passed for the safety and health of the dwellings of the poor. The water supply, imperfect as it still is, is a miracle of mercy compared with the supply of former years. Nor can we omit all the efforts at sanitation which have done so much, and which, if properly supported, will effect yet larger results. I say properly supported, for the want of such support is the sole reason why all these movements have not issued in larger benefits. But in reference to the moral part, which concerns the minds and morals of the working classes, the efforts that have been made are fifty-fold compared with the efforts of former days. They cannot be passed over in silence; and yet the subject is too large for a single speech and such an occasion as the present. They must be touched in haste. See the greater activity of the Established Church and of the Nonconformist bodies, the quintupled energy and fertility of the Bible Society, the larger development of the Religious Tract Society—I say development, for it existed before—and of all associations and publishing firms of a kindred spirit, which have given such admirable books of all kinds to the working classes, excellently written and with beautiful engravings, which now may be had for a few pence, but in my day, had they existed, would have cost as many shillings. Of all the organised institutions the London City Mission must take the lead. This is its year of jubilee. Every one knows and acknowledges its merits and services; 450 men going out every day to carry counsel and consolation to the very depths of human misery cannot be without their effect. Then there are the Young Men's Christian Associations, intended for the benefit and instruction of that very numerous and important class, the young men in the houses of commerce and busi-

ness. I may mention the Ragged Schools. I cannot say how many of the lowest of the human race passed under our care during the years of our prosperity, but I am sure that we took off the streets and put into a way of obtaining an honest livelihood more than 300,000 children, who would otherwise have been among the dangerous classes of the community. No one knows this better than Sir R. Carden. The School Board is doing a great work, but this work it never will and it never can do. I may call attention to the training ships, moreover, for destitute lads in the Thames and all round the coasts, which are unspeakably useful to the lads themselves, and to the mercantile and Royal Marine refuges, too, in great abundance and admirably conducted, for boys and girls. Some may yet be found who entertain objections to lay preachers; but no one can deny the effect produced by those zealous men, to whom the masses will give attention when they will not attend any recognised place of worship or listen to any ordained minister. The form and extent of individual exertions are wide and deep. I collected together a few years ago 60 heads of missions; they were totally unknown to fame, and many of them to each other; and yet on a hasty calculation I felt assured that thousands never heard the name of God or a syllable of His word except through their instrumentality. I must quote as a sample of the power of individual exertion, the history of the costermongers in Golden Lane. From being a terror to the police and an annoyance to society, they are become, under their friend and head, Mr. Orsman, so diligent, honest, and orderly, that Sir Edmund Henderson went in person to one of their meetings, to tell them that in the whole of the metropolis there was no better set of men. And this improvement extends to the care of their animals—a coster's horse or a coster's donkey will show with the best in the land. Now, last, but by no means least, let me press on the public the great benefits we have derived from the larger employment of women. It is incalculable. Take them as visitors, Sunday-school teachers, members of committees, we bow before them, in gratitude. Whether acting singly, or as members of a compact body, like the Bible-women and Bible-nurses, they gain access to houses where men would fail. I attribute much of the improved demeanour of London to their intervention. A woman may now go on her mission of mercy to places from which men would naturally shrink, and not only would she not be molested, but she would find many who, to use the words of Burke, would avenge even a look that threatened her with insult. My Lord Mayor, we may rejoice to know that efforts like these are not confined to London. There are great and fruitful movements in Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, and many other large cities. I have been taking the positive view of things

actually done, but may we not, nay, ought we not to take the negative view of things not done, but of evils prevented? It is difficult to prove the assertion; but let any one who doubts reflect for one moment on what would have been the state of things in London at this time had no one of the movements I have mentioned been set on foot during the last fifty years. I verily believe, though my opinion may not go for much, that London would have been a hell upon earth had it continued to exist; but more probably it would have been devoured by its own inhabitants. These movements have had a very soothing effect, and thousands who were not themselves recipients of the benefits have been pleased by the respect shown to the class to which they belong. But, notwithstanding all these achievements, notwithstanding all these agencies, notwithstanding all the efforts of so many vigorous intellects and earnest hearts, the future is very dark. We must not disguise it. There never was, at any time, at least within the compass of my reading and experience, such a cool and systematic unbelief, and so largely acceptable; never such a succession of wild and pernicious opinions, which, though they pass away as rapidly as they come, distract and pervert the public mind. These agents, whatever be their name, Atheists or Agnostics, are concentrated, organised, disciplined, aggressive. Children even are trained to be missionaries of evil, and to go out and mislead the little things of their own age whom they find in the courts and alleys. Thus are they marshalled, but so are we, and more are they that be with us than those that be with them. What, then, shall we do? Well, the answer stands out in Holy Writ. When the sea was raging in their front, the word was, Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward. And so it is to us. Our principles are sound; we know their origin, and we know their issue, and every one may take to himself the promise, "Only be thou strong and very courageous, and the Lord thy God is with thee, whithersoever thou goest."

The Lord Mayor proposed "The Bishops, the Clergy, and the Members of all Denominations."

The Archbishop of Canterbury said he could have wished they had been allowed a few moments of silence to have reflected on the speech they had just heard. He did not agree with the Lord Mayor that Lord Shaftesbury had retired from politics, he had only entered into the higher region of politics, which it was to be desired that all statesmen would deem it to be their duty to enter into. The greatest politicians of the world were the prophets of the Hebrews. The Greeks understood what true politics were, and they applied to every man who neglected them a name from which we derived our word idiocy, a term of reproach applied to the man who was occupied with

small matters instead of those that concerned the great interests of mankind and the relations of man to man, of classes to classes, and of man unto God. The Hebrew prophets shrank from nothing. They never preached that there should be no rich or no property in land; they preached justice, mercy, truth, right wages, and honourable dealings on the part of all men. It was to be a politician of this kind that Lord Shaftesbury first entered political life—with the fear of God, because he believed there could be no politics without that fear. It was, he believed, at Harrow that Lord Shaftesbury saw and heard things which determined him to dedicate his life to remedying the irremediable and healing the unavoidable, to untwisting the knots and meshes of insolvable problems about things which men said "could not be helped"—a doctrine which was common many years ago. There were things which seemed unavoidable still which they hoped Lord Shaftesbury would live to see avoided and remedied; among them were the opium traffic and the housing of the poor. He thanked God for the sight he witnessed the other day in the House of Lords when the Prince of Wales and the noble lord rose together, neither seeing the other, and it was doubtful for a moment who would speak first; and when the Prince had made that short and earnest speech which would win him an enduring place in the hearts of the people, Lord Shaftesbury made a speech which he should never forget, especially for its climax of individual sympathy in the sad cases which he recalled. On this question of the housing of the poor he was reminded of what was said by the American, Dr. Brock, to the effect that nothing great or good could ever be done among the Red Indians until they were brought out of ther birch-bark huts and made to live in log houses properly furnished. What was true of the Red Indians was true of your own outcast poor. Little by little this cause would be won, and those who worked in it would recall with veneration the name of the noble earl who had done so much, and who began far more than it was possible for him to accomplish in his honoured years.

The toast was also acknowledged by the Rev. Mr. M'Cullagh, the president of the Wesleyan Conference, and by the Rev. Dr. Allon.

The Houses of Parliament were next proposed, to which Mr. Walter, M.P., responded, and spoke eloquently of his lordship's career in the cause of humanity.

"A LIGHT IN A DARK PLACE:"

Being a Sketch of the Early History, Struggles and Triumphs of the Deptford Ragged School.

Among the small things which become great, the weak which become mighty, and the despised which, after years of quiet unobtrusive usefulness, are at last appreciated and fostered, may be classed the institutions known as Ragged Schools; and among Ragged Schools that of Deptford may be instanced as one to which these characteristics apply.

"The Bitter Cry" is but a repetition of a state of things long since known to have existed by the agents of the Ragged School Union and by teachers; and but for this and kindred institutions the cry would have been more bitter still.

A narrative of the Deptford Ragged School ought, therefore, to be of thrilling and abiding interest to all who have any concern at all for those whose outward circumstances and spiritual privileges are in such painful contrast to our own; and to convince us that they have a claim not only upon our purses, but upon our active and personal care and sympathy.

In tracing its early history, struggles and triumphs, I have depended mainly upon such printed records of the school as now exist, supplemented by allusions in the Magazines and Reports of the Ragged School Union, together with such information as was obtainable from persons now living, who themselves, or whose relatives, were connected with the work.

From the absence of any published Report earlier than 1858 (*i.e.*, fourteen years after it was founded), its early history, like that of the Ragged School Union itself, is somewhat obscured; the reason being that those who began this work were men whose whole soul was swallowed up in the work itself, and who had neither the time nor the desire to record what they did.

From two paragraphs in the Reports for the years 1860 and 1864, however, it appears that the Deptford Ragged School was one of the twenty schools established in the same year as the Ragged School Union itself, and began its existence on the 1st December, 1844, in a small room at a house, long since pulled down, in Flood Street, now known as Addey Street, which runs parallel with Church Street, behind Addey's School. This locality was at that time popularly called "the gravel pits," and was regarded as the lowest part of Deptford in every sense.

The honour of founding the school is generally conceded to a Mr. William Agutter, who then resided at Slade's Place, High Street, and

who for many years held the office of Secretary. This gentleman is still living; and although, with that modesty which seems to be a part of his character, he does not claim the honour conceded to him, he nevertheless admits that he was one of the earliest workers; and so steadfast was he that of those who began the work with him he alone remained in the year 1858. I find, too, that Mr. Agutter was one of the Managing Committee of the Ragged School Union so early as 1845, as shown in their second Report.

He seems to have been a member of the High Street (Congregational) Church, and to have been assisted in his benevolent and Christian enterprise by seven other members of that church, who were equally brave, unselfish, and whole-hearted with himself—men who felt with intense earnestness the words of the Christian poet:—

"Oh! hearts are bruised and dead;
And homes are bare and cold;
And lambs, for whom the Shepherd bled,
Are straying from the fold."

And so they determined to do what they could in spite of great opposition even from those whom they were seeking to benefit—

"To comfort and to bless;
To find a balm for woe;
To tend the lone and fatherless—
('Twas angels' work below);

"The captive to release;
To God the lost to bring;
To teach the way of life and peace—
(It was a Christ-like thing)."

These eight noble-hearted teachers rented this room on Sunday evenings for two years. The difficulties they had to encounter at the commencement of the work cannot now be precisely described, but from the school Report for 1860—sixteen years after its opening—it appears that they had to battle "physically and morally" with the poor outcasts of Deptford; and from a later Report, referring to an improved state of things, there is an allusion which seems to make it pretty clear that physical force had sometimes to be resorted to by the teachers when violent conduct manifested itself. The after experience of others shows, however, if not in intensity, yet in likeness, some of the difficulties they had to contend with from these half-naked, dirty, and rebellious children, whose only education had been a training for vicious pursuits.

The teachers had to meet early to secure possession of the premises; and to maintain it they kept the door closed until a sufficient number were present to prevent disorder. Stones and filth

were frequently thrown at the doors and windows, and teachers themselves did not always escape these missiles. Sometimes it was found necessary to barricade the door. But in their attempts to secure and maintain possession they were occasionally outwitted or overmastered. On one such occasion the door was burst open, and a mob of the most disorderly, yelling and hooting, got inside. The wildest confusion ensued, the school materials being thrown about regardless of consequences—Mr. Agutter standing at the desk with his head cut by a stone and his face and clothing spotted with mud, while another teacher had his coat torn across the back.

Inside the school, even on ordinary occasions, there were frequent interruptions — whistling, shouting, cat-calling, cock-crowing, braying, sometimes swearing, and the roughest horse-play. On the one hand, the most defiant behaviour if interfered with; and on the other, exhibitions of the most irrepressible fun and mischief.

A story is told of one lad who came into the school, rushed up the chimney, and after rubbing his hair well into the soot, suddenly descended and, dancing round the room, shook the soot all over it.

Here is a sharp rejoinder to a simple question:—

Teacher.—"Well, how do you get your living?"

Boy (*grinning*).—"Oh, teacher, I'm like the hymn."

Teacher.—"What do you mean?"

Boy.—"'Oh, all ye hungry, starving souls,
That *feed* upon the *wind*.'"

But perhaps the roughest joke of all was that played upon the founder, Mr. Agutter, by a lad who shall be nameless, but whose conduct had severely tried him from his propensity for mimicking the cries of animals, and, besides other antics, bringing live mice or birds in his pocket to let loose in the school. Mr. Agutter had borne with him until it was no longer endurable, and having decided that the lad must go, the following scene is said to have taken place:—

Mr. A.—"Now, my lad, I am very sorry, but I cannot allow you to upset the school in this way: you must go."

Boy.—"What, *me*, sir—*go*, sir? Oh no, sir, I can't."

Mr. A.—"But you *must*."

Boy.—"*Must*, sir—leave *my* school? Can't do it."

Mr. A.—"But I tell you, you must go. You will not keep quiet; you disturb every one else. Now go."

Boy.—"I'm quiet, sir; I'm not going."

Mr. A.—"I must insist upon your going at once."

Boy.—"Can't really, sir; if I'm to go you'll have to carry me out, sir."

(*Accordingly carried out.*)

A few minutes later a gentle tap was heard, and upon Mr. Agutter

incautiously opening the door, he was assailed with handfuls of mud, after which the lad decamped; and Mr. Agutter, having scraped or rubbed off as much mud as possible, went home to complete the cleansing process.

The following Sunday the boy presented himself for admittance. A Mr. Nelson Smith, the then secretary, was at the door, when the following conversation took place:—

Mr. S.—"What, *you* here! What do you want?"

Boy.—"To come in, sir, *of course.*"

Mr. S.—"Why, I wonder you are not ashamed to show your face after your bad conduct."

Boy.—"*My* conduct, sir? What's the matter, sir? What have *I* done, sir?"

Mr. S.—"Done! Why, didn't you throw a lot of mud over Mr. Agutter, who has been so kind to you, and borne with you so long?"

Boy.—"Well, sir, and isn't *a gutter* the proper place for *mud?*"

(Mr. Smith closes the door and collapses at once.)

This is not all, however. Some time after, this boy again came to the school, and upon asking him what he wanted he replied, "Only to say good-bye."

Mr. S.—"Where are you going, then?"

Boy.—"Oh, that doesn't matter; I *am* going, and I only want to say good-bye"—which he was allowed to do.

Nothing more was heard of this lad for several months, when one day a letter came from Chatham, where he had gone and enlisted for a soldier, stating that he could not forget his past bad conduct, that he was very sorry for it, and hoped that they forgave him, but that he could not rest until he knew this, and that if they would only write and tell him so he should then feel happy. Later on, a friend of Mr. Agutter's, who occasionally went to Chatham on business, at his request called and inquired about him, found he bore an excellent character, and on seeing him assured him that he was forgiven, gave him some good advice, and left him.

All honour to Mr. Agutter and his seven brave companions in this truly Christ-like labour. If some of their names and little of their labours are unchronicled in earthly records, their record is on high and *the day* shall declare them; and their reward shall be of the sweetest that ever fell from the Master's lips—"Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye did it unto Me."

This school, for the rebuilding of which an appeal has been issued, is situated in a spot the most suitable for its varied Christian and benevolent operations. The operations comprise Sunday Schools—Morning, Afternoon, and Evening; Mothers' Meeting, Sewing Class,

Penny Bank, Working Lads' Institute, Provident Dispensary, Mendicity Society, Band of Hope, Clothing Club, Boot Club, Children's Services, &c., &c. The lease of the premises has expired, and the building is in a most dilapidated and unsatisfactory condition. The committee have bought the freehold, and are now waiting for the means to erect a larger and more commodious structure. Since the appeal was issued in last October over £400 has been raised. The Ragged School Union Committee have promised £50. The Rev. Paxton Hood has promised to lecture in aid of the funds on the 7th of April, in the lecture hall connected with the Rev. W. Weatherall's church, St. Peter's, Wickham Road, Lewisham High Road, S.E.; and a bazaar will be held in the New Cross Hall on the 11th of June, which will be opened at 3.30 by the Earl of Shaftesbury. Contributions in money or articles for the bazaar may be forwarded to the Secretary of the Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall, Strand; to W. Bristowe, Esq., Bexley Heath; and to Mr. Rolfe, 62, Shardeloes Road, New Cross.

The history of this interesting work will be continued in our next issue.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BOYS' AND GIRLS' REFUGES AND HOMES.

TWELVE years ago there was no place in Manchester where the destitute children of our streets could find a safe shelter and a home. In many cases orphans, or worse than orphans, they were left to grow up uncared for, and too frequently became the thieves and drunkards who fill our gaols. Their sad condition touched some loving hearts, and shortly after this a house was taken in Quay Street, Deansgate, and fitted up with thirty beds, with the modest title over the door, "Night Refuge for Homeless Boys." And this was the beginning of the "Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges and Homes," a work of which some in Manchester and Salford are not even aware, for it has been carried on very quietly, and of which few realise the importance, but which has had the blessing of Him "who seeth not as man seeth." Year by year it has steadily grown until now there are twelve separate Homes in various parts of Manchester, and at these, and on the training ship with which the Refuge is connected, there are supported and cared for about 300 orphan and destitute children. The object of the institution is to receive and provide for homeless and destitute children found in the streets of Manchester and Salford—to train them up to gain for themselves an honest living, and above all to win their hearts for the Saviour. Since the opening, January 4,

CENTRAL REFUGE STRANCEWAYS
BOYS HOME
BOYS HOME
BOYS HOME
BOYS HOME
BOYS HOME
BOYS HOME
BOYS HOME
FRANCES ST

1870, the institution has received under its care and shelter over 1,000 of these homeless and destitute ones! In a commercial sense the gain to the community has been great, for the vast majority of those thus admitted must otherwise have found their way either to the workhouse or the gaol; but in a higher sense, who shall estimate the gain in the amount of sin and sorrow, of wretchedness and vice, which has thus been prevented? It is interesting to state what the institution is now doing. At the Central Refuge, Strangeways, which contains seventy beds, immediate admission is given to urgent cases, without the delay and expense which always attend election. Each case is most carefully investigated and, if genuine, assigned the form of work most suitable. Here in a busy workshop may be seen firewood-making on an extensive scale, the miniature workmen plying their task with a speed and dexterity almost marvellous. Shoemaking and tailoring are carried on in adjoining workshops. Another party go out as the little red-coated shoeblacks so well known in our streets. Others are chosen to fill situations in workshops and offices, while those who are fitted for a seafaring life, and desire it, are sent to the training ship. Nor is education forgotten; each morning may be seen a very active school, under the care of our energetic master. The Homes for Working Lads, of which there are four, are composed mainly of boys who have passed through the Central Refuge, and who are apprenticed to various trades. Each Home contains seventeen lads under the care of a Christian father and mother. They go out daily to their work, returning home at night, and are found Sunday by Sunday at the Sabbath School and house of prayer. The Homes for little orphan children—boys and girls—of which there are six side by side, form a most interesting branch of the work. Here nearly all have lost both parents. Snatched thus early from a life of sin and sorrow, they are being trained up, among all the wise and loving influences of a happy home, to develop, we trust and pray, into earnest Christian men and women. Those who desire to see the "family system" truly carried out are invited to visit these Homes. Each Home contains sixteen little ones, watched over by a Christian mother, and all the internal arrangements are those of a well-ordered family. The girls' branch is at Heathfield, Broughton Lane. At this Home the destitute girls of Manchester, of from ten to fifteen years of age, are received and find a safe shelter and a home. They are engaged in laundry work, and are taught all the practical matters needful for a woman to know; and as soon as it is safe, they are placed, as opportunity offers, in situations or homes. The training ship at Liverpool is an important branch of the work. Eighty boys have already been sent on board, many of whom, having served the term of training (three

years), have gone into her Majesty's Navy or to the merchant service, and are serving as bright, brave sailor lads in distant lands and seas. The Boys' Rest and Coffee Room, Angel Meadow, has just recently been established in the very heart of the worst district in Manchester. The object of this branch is to afford temporary aid to the lads who frequent the common lodging-houses of this district, and thus gradually raise them from their present low surroundings to the permanent Homes of the institution. Mission services suitable for boys are carried on here, and also a pure literature depôt. The News Brigade and Caxton Brigade, of which the headquarters are at 10, Corporation Street, provide employment for about 100 poor boys, who yet have parents and a so-called home, and therefore are not eligible for admission into the Refuge. The former Brigade, under proper discipline and within legal hours, is organised to sell newspapers, while the Caxton Brigade, under similar regulations, distributes magazines and pure literature among the poor and middle classes. From both Brigades boys are passed on into permanent employment as they show themselves worthy of it. Thus every class of destitute children in our city is cared for, and no deserving case is ever refused help.

FOX COURT RAGGED SCHOOL,

Gray's Inn Road, Holborn.

The following circular has been widely issued:—

"Dear Sir,—The Metropolitan Board of Works is, as you may perhaps be aware, carrying out a great work in connection with the widening of Gray's Inn Road.

The undertaking has involved the removal of a great number of poverty-stricken dwellings occupying the site between Holborn and the Town Hall, including most of those in that once ill-famed court known as Fox Court.

The Ragged School in this court has for thirty-eight years been the centre of a field of voluntary labour for the good—spiritual and bodily—of the surrounding courts and alleys, as the following list of operations shows:—

Sunday Schools—Morning, Afternoon, and Evening; Infant Day School; Week Night Schools for Working Boys and Girls; Week Night Bible Classes for Elder Scholars; Juvenile Sabbath Union; Band of Hope; Lectures and Entertainments; Free Lending Library; Free Breakfasts Daily for Infants attending the Day School; Poor Children's Dinners twice a week during Winter; Clothing, Blanket, and Coal Clubs; Mothers' Meeting; Ladies' Dorcas Society; Visiting and Relief Association; Convalescent Fund; Penny Bank; City Missionary's Meetings; and Sunday Evening Services for Adults.

All of which are conducted by voluntary workers, excepting the case of the teacher of the Infant Day School.

The house which for so long has been held by the committee of the school is one of those required by the Board, and the committee are daily expecting to be told to vacate.

Strenuous endeavours have in consequence been made to find another house, or a site for a house, in the neighbourhood.

The committee of the school have to face two alternatives—either the school and its work must be abandoned, or a special appeal made in hope of raising funds to enable them to take the lease of a house and suit it to the requirements of the case, or to purchase a site and build upon it; for which purpose a sum of not less than £1,200 would be needed.

A site has been obtained in the same court.

The committee hope that you will assist them in their exertions to keep alive a work the need for which can be seen at a glance by any who will pay the present schoolhouse a visit before it is pulled down. Should you be ready to do so, perhaps you will communicate with any of the undersigned, who are ready to give every information.

Yours faithfully,

Hugh W. Elcum, Treasurer, 13, Bedford Row, W.C.

Thos. Fagg, Hon. Secretary, 136, Pentonville Road, N.

R. Melvill Beachcroft, 9, Theobald's Road, Bedford Row, W.C.; Charles E. Fry, 14, South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C., Members of Committee."

PRESENTATIONS.

Presentation to Mr. H. R. Williams.

Lower Exeter Hall was crowded with an enthusiastic company on Wednesday evening, March 12, to witness the presentation to Mr. H. R. Williams, Treasurer of the King Edward Industrial School, and Chairman of the Hornsey Local and School Boards, of a portrait of himself and an address, in recognition of his untiring labours in the welfare of Ragged School children. Lord Shaftesbury, K.G., presided, and amongst those on the platform were the Rev. Paxton Hood, the Rev. John Thompson, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Mr. Montague, and others. Mr. E. Newell, Mr. R. R. Glover, J.P., Mr. George Tyler, Mr. Charles Tyler, Mr. W. Piper, Mr. G. C. Leighton, Mr. Charles Ronaldson, Mr. John Glover, Mr. W. H. Collingridge, Mr. G. J. Jealous, Mr. John Carter, Mr. F. Straker, Mr. P. Alston, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. George Baker, Mr. Carvell Williams, and Messrs. Gilbert Robins, Reid, Prestwich and Scott, members of the Hornsey Local

Board; together with Mr. J. H. Lloyd, hon. sec. of the King Edward Industrial School, were also present.

The galleries were crowded with children from the King Edward School, and the boys' band played at intervals during the evening.

Mr. Montague, hon. sec. of the King Edward Ragged School, read letters of apology from Sir George Osborne, The Hon. A. J. Kinnaird, Sir W. McArthur, the Rector of Spitalfields, Canon Fleming, Professor Leone Levi, the Rev. Josiah Viney, the Rev. Dr. McAuslane, Colonel Stedall, the Rev. Dr. Hannay, Mrs. Westlake, and Mr. J. H. Buckingham.

The Rev. PAXTON HOOD, in a most eloquent speech, moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting desires to gratefully acknowledge the many benefits accorded to society by the establishment of Ragged Schools, and the pre-eminent services rendered to them by the voluntary teachers during the long period of forty years, and the varied and successful efforts among the very poor at the East End of London by Mr. H. R. Williams," which was ably seconded by the Rev. DR. KENNEDY, and supported by the Rev. FRANK SODEN.

Mr. MONTAGUE then read the address as follows:—"Dear Mr. Williams,—You have been invited to meet a few of your friends on this occasion, all of whom have known something of the good work in which you have been engaged in the East of London; and some of whom have been personally co-operating with you in that work, and with you sharing in its anxieties and responsibilities; and with you in participating in the joys of success, and in welcoming the happy results following faithful effort in Christian enterprise. Although your work, to which reference is here made, commenced as far back as the year 1846, yet there are present to-night some friends who have been witnesses of that work, if not co-workers with you in it, through the whole of the thirty-eight years that have since elapsed, and therefore fully capable of forming a judgment upon its merits. These friends have thought that the time had arrived when they might be allowed the pleasure of recognising, with grateful feelings, that work of yours. The pleasure of this recognition is enhanced from the circumstance that soon after you entered upon this work (then only a young man, and subject to the orders of those by whom you were employed in business) you were compelled to choose between giving up your situation in a commercial house, or giving up your mission work. Humanity and the Church of Christ have to thank God that your decision was like that of Joshua of old, and in effect was 'as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.' This difficulty, instead of cooling your zeal, seemed rather to quicken it; for before you were re-established in another situation you were found devoting a large portion of your savings, not so much to keep your work going,

as to increase its efficiency and to extend its area. Your friends all noticed that when you entered upon business as the principal, and that business extending year by year till it became one of importance in the City of London, you did not allow it to interfere with your personal efforts for the extension of the Church of Christ, for the dissemination of elementary education, for the training of poor neglected girls for domestic usefulness (and during training providing for them home, food, clothing, and all they needed for this life, and having also special regard for that which is to come). In addition to all this you found time for promoting other benevolent and philanthropic objects in London and its suburbs. As a member of the Committee of the Ragged School Union, the Religious Tract Society, Chairman of the Hornsey School Board, and Chairman of the Hornsey Local Board, you have done good service, and your efforts in co-operation with others to secure the Alexandra Park for the people we hope may be crowned with success. Your earliest Ragged School efforts were made in King Edward Street, in premises which had been used for a stable and cowhouse, and which were adapted at a cost of £150 for school uses, and employed during Sunday and through the week in the education of the children of the locality. It was opened by Lord Ashley in November, 1846. The need for this was proved from a house-to-house visitation, when it was found that out of 1,327 children in the district only 145 could read; and of 7,200 adult inhabitants only 320 occasionally attended any place of worship. This effort was attended with such success as to render further accommodation needful. A vacant plot of ground in Albert Street at that time could be had for £600, and was secured, and upon it erected, at a cost of £3,500, premises suitable for the joint use of the Ragged School for 500 children, and a Refuge for thirty girls, the foundation stone of which was laid by the late Sir T. Proctor Beauchamp in 1850, and the buildings opened by Lord Shaftesbury in 1851. You were enabled to hold the joint offices of hon. secretary and superintendent of the schools till 1861, when you resigned the latter, and was succeeded in it two years after by one whom you had yourself trained, and who, emulating your example, sought to continue the Christian and benevolent work of the school, and has been enabled to do so up to the present time. And at this time there are, we are happy to say, the large number of forty-three voluntary teachers benefiting, and in various ways helping, about 1,100 children and adults attending the schools. In 1872 the Refuge for thirty girls in Albert Street was merged into an Industrial School, and was then certified by the Home Secretary for 100 girls; and in three years after a further extension took place by securing premises in Cambridge Heath, which had been previously used for a public institution. At an outlay of

some £10,000 this place has been made all that could be desired for the training of girls for domestic service; so much so, that when the Govenment Inspector examined them he reported to the Home Secretary that 'Extensive additions had been carried out, including a new schoolroom, dormitories, store-rooms, work-rooms, bath and dressing-rooms, and teachers' apartments. All the arrangements are very complete, and the whole building is in excellent order, and is one of the best planned in our list.' At the time of this inspection there were 118 girls under training, so that in the two Industrial Schools there are just now about 220 inmates. These institutions are both under Government inspection and largely supported by the Government grant. Her Majesty's Inspector, in his last published report, says—'I found everything in admirable order. The school, as well as the branch institution in Hackney, is abundantly suppled with every appliance that can conduce to comfort and proper training of the children confided to its care. All that experience or kindly feeling towards the children can suggest is at once carried out, and the children certainly do credit to the generous spirit and thoughtful consideration of the managers.' Having thus made a very brief, and probably a very imperfect, sketch of your life's work, allow us to add that your friends and co-workers, already referred to, ask you to give them the peculiar pleasure of recognising your great, your valued and your long-continued services by presenting you with a portrait of the Christian philanthropist, represented in your own person, and asking you to accept the same from the hands of our noble President, the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.—Signed, Thomas Brooker, Charles Brooks, W. M. Cross, R. J. Curtis, David French, Joseph G. Gent, John Kirk, Charles Montague, E. Newell, W. J. Orsman, and David Petty.—Committee.

"March 12, 1884."

At this point the portrait, a really life-like representation, was unveiled amid cheers.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury said: Mr. Williams, the Committee of the King Edward Ragged School and other friends have conferred on me the very high honour of putting into your hands the portrait of yourself, which they have had painted as a token of their respect for your personal character, and of gratitude for your services. Such a gift as this is not in the character of a permanency. It is fragile and perishable. Now I think when you look around this room and see the children gathered here, and remember that they only represent many who have gone away and have been rescued from misery and the very lowest life by your care, you will agree with me that you have gone much higher than many men who have been more blessed by

God. Whenever you look upon that picture you will remember that it was given you by your co-workers in appreciation of the great work which by God's blessing you have achieved, and we hope and trust that many will be induced to follow your example in rescuing thousands of poor and ill-begotten children, who will figure as some of the brightest jewels in the crown of our Lord and Saviour. We present you with this picture as an outward and visible sign of a very poor representation of the feelings in our hearts, and we assure you that in memory of your great services we shall never cease to think of you but with the greatest affection, and to sustain you with our prayers. Let me present to you the picture which I hope will remain n your possession until you are called to the peaceful abode of our heavenly Father.

Mr. WILLIAMS, in reply, said he had passed through many Ragged School experiences, but he must confess that he had never passed through an experience of this kind. He had had to deal with all kinds and conditions of men in connection with Ragged School work, but he could say that this was the hardest Ragged School meeting he had ever experienced. He heartily thanked Lord Shaftesbury for the very kind words he had spoken, and, he was going to say, the unmerited credit he had given him. He had taken a great interest in the raising of the poor of the neighbourhood of Spitalfields, but he could not take all the credit to himself. There were those present who should be sharers of the esteem and respect which he was sure they would entertain for them in their life's work. Mr. Tyler and himself had been associated in the work of education in Spitalfields, and others who had rendered great service in the work of Christianity. It appeared to him that he was only one of a band who were labouring to promote the welfare of the East End of London, and he thought he ought to share any honour that was conferred on him with his co-workers. Although his lordship had given him great praise for what he had done, yet he might say that whatever he had done was by the inspiration which his lordship to a very great extent had given him and others in this work. They remembered with thankfulness the efforts of his lordship to raise the poor of London, and when they heard his speeches some thirty or forty years ago they determined, so far as they could, to emulate his efforts and do something—however little it might be—to ameliorate the condition of the very poor. The word philanthropist did not apply to him (the speaker). He had only done his best as a Christian man to elevate his less fortunate brethren in Spitalfields and Whitechapel. Beyond that he could not apply such a term as philanthropist to himself, and he was sure his colleagues would excuse him. As Christian men and women it was our duty to

help those who were less fortunate, and it was only in this way that he had helped those with whom he had been brought into contact. With regard to Ragged Schools, he hoped no one would go away from that place with the idea that the work was done. They had heard of certain plague spots in London, and to remove such places as these they should continue to afford relief, to foster education, and especially the spread of Christian knowledge, and on this account he pleaded for the Ragged School cause. He thought it would be a reproach to them as Christians if they did not endeavour to support the Ragged School, and so help to ameliorate the condition of the parents of the children who came to them. This night would be one long to be remembered by him—one, in fact, which he should never forget. He should ever remember the kindness which he had received at the hands of Lord Shaftesbury, and before he sat down he begged to give them his heartfelt thanks for the kindness that had been shown him this evening.

The Rev. Dr. WHITE, of the Religious Tract Society, proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Shaftesbury, which was seconded by Rev. WILLIAM TYLER, supported by Mr. J. G. GENT, and carried with acclamation.

In replying, his LORDSHIP paid a graceful tribute to the skill of Mr. Herbert W. Piper, the artist, for the admirable likeness which he had produced.

STEPHEN THE YEOMAN, MARIGOLD PLACE.

THE teachers of Stephen the Yeoman Ragged School, at a meeting held on the evening of Friday, February 1st, presented their superintendent, Mr. John Menzies, and Mrs. Menzies, with a very handsome album, and an equally beautiful volume of sacred poetry. The presentation was made in the name of the teachers by Mr. George Hodges, secretary of the Mission, who, in a brief speech, gave utterance to the warm affection with which Mr. Menzies is regarded by all those who are associated with him in the good work which goes forward in Marigold Place, Bermondsey. Brief addresses expressive of similar sentiments were delivered by several of the teachers. Mr. Menzies responded, warmly thanking the subscribers to the testimonial for their beautiful gift, and the very loving manner in which it had been given.

A fortnight later the teachers of same school presented Mr. H. Henderson, then on the eve of leaving England for America, with a copy of Farrar's "Life of Christ," and a birthday book. The superintendent, in handing the gifts, expressed his deep regret at losing an earnest and successful fellow-worker. Mr. Henderson replied in suitable and feeling terms.

Hamond Square, Hoxton.

Mr. Dowthaithe, who has been an active teacher for several years, and for some time past had occupied the office of superintendent, having been obliged to resign this post through removal to a distance, was recently, as a small token of regard and appreciation of service, presented with a handsomely bound copy of Tennyson's poems, and also the works of Robert Browning in six volumes.

Mr. Holland's Sixtieth Birthday.

Thursday evening, March 20, was a time of unusual interest at George Yard, Whitechapel; occasion was then taken to celebrate the sixtieth birthday of Mr. George Holland. How thoroughly he has won the hearts of those among whom he has patiently laboured for the last thirty years can only be known by those intimately acquainted with the work; but it was in a small degree evidenced on this occasion by the crowd of poor men, women, and girls that filled the large room. Many of these had contributed from their poverty to obtain, with the help of some of their teachers, a handsome family Bible, an armchair, and a walnut stationery case. These, with a writing-table, the gift of several other workers, were presented to Mr. Holland.

The enjoyment of the evening reached its highest when Lady Ashburton announced that she was the bearer of a present from her Majesty the Queen, who had sent Mr. Holland a copy of her new book, "More Leaves from a Life in the Highlands," with her autograph written in it. This called forth a burst of loyal feeling, and the National Anthem was enthusiastically sung.

Mr. Holland touched the hearts of all present by his acknowledgment of these gifts, and especially by his heartfelt ascription of praise to Him who had given him strength and grace to carry on the work thus far.—*Christian.*

HEALTH EXHIBITION.

Space having been granted in the forthcoming Exhibition at South Kensington, the Committee are making arrangements for a display of models, pictures, statistics, and articles which will, it is hoped, afford a good representation of the extensive and many-sided work at present carried on in the affiliated Ragged Schools and Missions. A circular has been issued to the local secretaries calling attention to the subject, and asking for the contribution of articles for exhibition. "The object of the Exhibition will be to illustrate as vividly and in as practical a manner as possible food, dress, the dwelling, the school, and

the workshop, as affecting the conditions of healthful life, and also to bring into public notice the most recent appliances for elementary school teaching and instruction in applied science, art, and handicrafts."

ENTERTAINMENT FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

It may be in the recollection of our readers that Lord Shaftesbury gave a complete set of magic-lantern apparatus to the Union for free use amongst the schools. It is most gratifying to know that year by year these pleasure-giving appliances increase in demand, the past winter far exceeding any former season in this additional use. Mr. Harris, a member of the Committee, generously offered his large selection of beautiful slides for use, and so, at a trifling cost for porterage, a very large number of old and young have been instructed and delighted with beautiful pictures. The numbers thus entertained can only be given approximately as follows: Number of schools, 114; number of attendances, 25,000.

A pleasing feature in connection with these simple, inexpensive means of recreation has been the kind willingness of Ragged School friends to co-operate, either by the loan of slides or by the delivery of lectures in schools other than their own. We look hopefully forward to a still further development of the elevating and attractive mission of the lantern.

REAPING.

"And he that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal."

Shap Street, Hackney.

Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in forwarding following incidents for the "R. S. U. Quarterly Record."

We have in connection with our school at Shap Street a Cricket Club, composed of our senior lads and their friends. One of the rules of the Club is that no member shall use improper language on the field. During the season 1882 a young fellow joined the Club and broke the rule just mentioned. He was cautioned by the "captain" (who was our senior class teacher), and one of the members, a Christian lad, spoke to him on the way home about it, and invited him to come to the Sunday School Class, which, after some persuasion, he did, and ultimately became converted, joined the church last month, and is now on trial as a teacher in our school; thus showing that recreation and amusement rightly directed may be made a means of

doing the Master's work, and proving "a word spoken in season how good it is."

We have made it a custom for many years to give the scholars a motto verse for the New Year. In the year 1881 we gave, "I will arise and go to My Father," and one of our boys became seriously impressed thereby. These impressions he tried to shake off, and he succeeded for a time; but they returned again and again, till a few months since he yielded, and gave his heart to the Lord, and is now living a consistent and earnest life.

We have had a blessed year through 1883 with regard to conversions, many having confessed themselves on the Lord's side; but we have been much tried by loss of teachers. One of our most useful is now in the Pastors' College studying for the ministry, another has become a city missionary, a third is now a Sunday School teacher in Canada, while others have removed to a distance or resigned through ill-health. But I am thankful to say our ranks are being filled up, so that we hope soon to have our number complete again. I pray God may bless the work of the Union more than ever, and that it may lack no good thing. Yours faithfully,

THOMAS HOWE.

FIELD LANE

Institution supplies the following:—

B. L., *nineteen.* Has been a regular attendant in the Ragged School from infancy. She was formerly so unruly, rude, and troublesome, that she was the terror of the whole school. Old things have happily passed away, and we may indeed say all things have become new. A great desire is manifested for better things, and although at times the old rebellious spirit will break out, we have every reason to believe that the seed sown is springing up in her heart; and at least we can say that this once trying child has become most devoted to the school, and is in many ways a great help to us in our work.

E. D., *seventeen.* This lad has grown up in the school, and although as troublesome as most boys at first, is now one of our most useful scholars. For a considerable time he has kept the attendance register of the Infant School on Sunday evenings, and is of great assistance to the superintendent.

B. K., *eighteen.* Has attended the school for seven years, and was a source of great trouble and anxiety to several teachers for a long time. She has for some time past, however, appeared anxious about spiritual things, and has recently professed to love the Saviour. Her mother has been very much afflicted for over a year and a half, and during this time B. K. has been anxious to do all that she could to help and cheer the poor woman.

J. F., seventeen. Has been in regular attendance at the school for nearly eight years. During the first four years his behaviour was just that of the average Ragged School boy. Gradually he evinced a quiet spirit and a desire to learn, trying to make himself useful in every way. For some time past he has acted as secretary of the Junior Band of Hope, and his conduct at all times, both in the school and out of it, is most exemplary, and justifies us in feeling that in his case (as in thousands of others) our labour has not been in vain in the Lord.

In Memoriam.

EDWARD JENNINGS, ESQ.

MR. SAMUEL JAMES.

MISS ADAMS.

MR. AUGUSTUS BENHAM.

EDWARD JENNINGS, ESQ.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Edward Jennings, Esq., solicitor, who died on the 22nd of January, 1884. He was one of the original promoters of the Society known subsequently as the Ragged School Union. He was an intimate friend of the late hon. secretary, Mr. William Locke, who would, if living, have supplied many interesting particulars of the work done jointly by them in the early days. The widow of Mr. Jennings in a letter says, "I think my husband was one of the deputation that waited on Lord Shaftesbury, then Lord Ashley, in order to obtain his sympathy with the movement prior to the establishment of the Society." He showed his zeal for this kind of work by uniting with others to start a Ragged School in Britannia Street, King's Cross, which did a long and excellent work. His name is seen very early as one of the Managing Commiteee of the Union, although it recurs but seldom. His business was such as of necessity to absorb his time and attention, nevertheless his zeal for the Union did not abate. For nearly forty years he gave his services as hon. solicitor to the Society. This over the time would amount to a good contribution to the funds of the Society. He was a man of simple and unaffected piety.

At the request of the Committee a letter of condolence was sent to the bereaved family.

MR. SAMUEL JAMES.

Mr. Samuel James was born on Christmas Day, 1833, and died on New Year's Day, 1884, and was interred at Highgate Cemetery. From childhood he knew the Lord. He became a scholar at Spa Fields Sunday School, and at the age of fifteen was made a teacher. At the age of twenty-six he removed to Kentish Town and became associated with the church of the Rev. W. Gillings, Kentish Town Road, in connection with which he discharged the double office of teacher and deacon, and here he met his beloved wife, who was not only a valuable helpmate in his home and business, but also in his work for Christ. His Sunday evenings were engaged in Ragged School work at Agar Town and Camden Town, and the afternoons for some time were spent in teaching at Wilkins Street and Grange Road railway arches. These details point to a busy and unselfish life. He was a man not dainty in his work, he sought for gems in the gutter. The boys he had to deal with were very rough and very violent, and very wicked, but his loving nature was drawn all the more strongly to them because of their utterly lost condition. In summer's heat and winter's frost, in rain, or hail, or snow, without interruption, he pursued his happy task. The work was exceptionally difficult; it needed the charity that never faileth. Big boys, full of animal spirits, were at times perfectly uncontrollable. Forms upset, lights extinguished, and outside a still noisier and wilder lot hurling mud and missiles at all who approached or left the school. Such scenes as these disturbed him not. He went out oftentimes without his hat and fronted the assailants, and by his persuasive manner reduced the refractory mob to order and reason. He loved his Master so much as to find all work for him easy and delightful. His life was all of a piece. To those who knew him intimately his generosity was most conspicuous, it began with those near and dear to him and reached to those most remote by relation or distance. He did not shun the duties incident to civil life, being for some time a guardian of the poor for the Union to which he belonged. He died from bronchitis, but it is feared that his death was caused by a belief that Turkish baths are a panacea for all the ills that flesh is heir to. He had one the day before his death. Only a fortnight before he said he never felt better in his life.

Death came to him somewhat as a surprise, but when the cry came, "The bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him," he was not

affrighted with the summons, for his spirit was ready with its "wedding garment." The human face, divine even in death,

> "Before decay's effacing fingers
> Had swept the lines where beauty lingers,"

grew brighter with the trail of glory left by the ascending soul.

A little wreath to make fragrant this slight memorial is contributed by Mr. Robertson, a fellow-worker, who says: "Our beloved friend had for some long time been preparing for glory, often mentioning his daily precious communings with Him whom it was his delight to serve. Always at his post, encouraging his fellow-teachers both by example and precept, he seemed ever ready for his Master's work. To give a single instance: It was the custom of the teachers in summer time to hold outdoor meetings in the neighbourhood after school, and should anything occur to prevent the teachers from taking part in that service, our dear friend would go alone rather than the poor should not have the good news of salvation preached unto them.

"He appeared to live upon the promises of God, and was wholly dependent upon His will. He had a strong affection for home life, and since the death of his dear wife he greatly missed its comforts, and expressed a hope that if it was the will of his Heavenly Father, another might be provided for him; but whatever was the will of God, that he knew would be best. How little did our dear friend, or those most intimate with him, think that God was preparing him a place, and that he was so soon to be taken to the home where there are rivers of joy at God's right hand for evermore.

"To him sudden death was sudden glory. He often prayed that he might not see the good results of his life's labour in his Master's vineyard *here*, lest he should be puffed up; but who can reckon his joy and thanksgiving in realising them in their fulness above, casting his crown at the feet of his Saviour, and saying, 'Here am I and the children whom Thou hast given me. Not unto me, but unto Thy name be all the glory.'"

MISS ADAMS.

Miss Adams, who for many years was a loving and devoted teacher in Ogle Mews Ragged School, was called home a short time since. Her days were made brief by a lingering disease, the pain of which was constant and intense. Nevertheless her countenance bore no trace of fretfulness or impatience, but was bright with that serenity that comes of submission to the divine will. From a sort of physical martyrdom she passed to her rest and her crown. Friends who read

the following verses attributed to her memory, will regard them as fully appropriate to her Christian character:—

"Her heart was beautiful and kind,
So tender and so true;
It grew, as hearts have always grown,
Which God has made anew.
It sympathised with others' woe,
Felt sad for others' pain,
And cheered all those within her sphere
As sunshine cheereth rain.

"Her speech was full of loving words,
Which flowed so soft and sweet,
Cheering the aged pilgrim's way,
Guiding the little feet,
And helping by a loving word
A weary sister on.
'Twas wont to fill her Christian life,
And make it one grand song.

"So peacefully she fled away
Unto her haven rest,
And only whispered as she went,
'My Father knoweth best.'
And round our fireside circle still
We hallow her loved name,
And praise Him who hath made that life
Our one grand, noble strain." S. M. E.

MR. AUGUSTUS BENHAM.

In the *Sunday School Union Chronicle* for January 18th may be found an interesting and impressive report of the funeral of the late Mr. Augustus Benham, the senior secretary of this Society, who died January 5th, and was buried the following Thursday in Bromley Cemetery. The burial service was held in the Congregational Church over which the Rev. E. H. Lovell presides. The place was crowded with sympathising friends, many of whom came from London and suburban places, being the representatives of the Parent Committee, of local auxiliaries, or of other religious societies. Besides these were the members of his family and other relatives, his surviving partner, and the representatives of the various departments of the extensive business, with one hundred and fifty of the workpeople. Messrs. Kirk and Curtis represented the Ragged School Union. The respect and affection exhibited on the occasion marked the extent of the loss sustained by the home, the business, the world, and the church.

Notices of Books.

Pity for the Perishing: The Power of the Bible in London. By G. Holden Pike. With an Introduction by the Right Hon. the Earl Cairns. (London: James Clarke and Co., 13, Fleet Street.) Price 3s. 6d.

CONTENTS.—The Dawn—London As It Was—Lord Shaftesbury as a Pioneer—William J. Orsman in Golden Lane—George Holland in Whitechapel—Dr. Barnardo in East London—Thomas Cranfield at Camberwell—George Hatton in St. Giles's—The Pioneers in Kent Street—Charles Montague in Spitalfields—Adeline M. Cooper at "The One Tun"—The Poet Laureate of Ragged Schools.

We stated what we thought of this interesting book in our last issue. We now give a few extracts as to what others think of it.

"The pages are well worth the reading and consideration of those who are interested in improving the condition of the poor in London." —*From the Introduction by Earl Cairns.*

"Contains a remarkable history of the successful progress of Ragged School operations in the metropolis, and records in detail the arduous nature of the work. . . . The indomitable perseverance and courage evinced by the leaders of this particular department of social reform are worthy of immortal fame."—*Literary World.*

"Is an ably written summary of the Mission agencies in the metropolis."—*Citizen.*

"Full of interesting matter."—*Sussex Daily News.*

"The publishing of this volume cannot fail to awaken fresh interest in a movement which in the past has wrought incalculable good."—*Ardrossan Herald.*

"'Pity for the Perishing' will no doubt at once secure a very large circulation. . . . No romance ever unveiled more startling phases of human experience."—*Fireside News.*

"This is a very welcome volume. The book is a distinct contribution of a popular kind to our literature on work among the poor."—*Baptist.*

"Good wine needs no bush,' and this excellent book would have made its way without the recommendatory preface of Earl Cairns. However, we will not quarrel with that, as it is both brief and good. His lordship knows by ripe and practical experience what is genuine philanthropy, and what is its counterfeit, and, therefore, is a good judge of a book which deals with those movements whose aim is the social and moral improvement of the masses of our great

cities. We are not surprised, therefore, at his cordial endorsement of Mr. Pike's book."—*Essex Telegraph.*

Our Own Gazette. Young Women's Christian Association News. Edited by Mrs. Stephen Menzies. (London: S. W. Partridge and Co.)

This new monthly serial, the organ of the Young Women's Christian Association, is sure of a deserved success if the first number is a sample of what is to follow. Instruction in righteousness is pleasantly given, as a tale by Mrs. Reaney, a pathetic story by the Rev. C. Whitmore, and the first chapter of a parabolic story by the Rev. W. Haslam, amply show. A full list is given of London Institutes which are open on Sundays and week evenings for reading, writing, conversation, and rest, and a list also of homes and restaurants where young women in business can obtain cheap lodgings, &c.

Woods and Forests. A weekly illustrated journal of Forestry, Ornamental Plants, and Estate Management. (W. Robinson, 27, Southampton Street, Strand, London.) Price 2d.

The question of woods and forests is one that is now assuming some importance. Who is not interested in trees? What beauty they give to the landscape! The revival of a taste for trees is exhibiting itself in the planting for shade and beauty of some of our metropolitan and suburban thoroughfares. It is well, therefore, that a miscellany addressing itself to this particular topic should appear.

MESSRS. CASSELL'S PUBLICATIONS.

Heart Chords.

Under this title a series of pretty pocket volumes have been published at the price of one shilling each. The object of the series is the stimulating, guiding, and strengthening of the Christian life. The one entitled "My Bible," by the Rev. Boyd Carpenter, Canon of Windsor, is now in its second edition. The writers are men of such eminence as the Venerable Archdeacon Farrar, the Rev. Hugh Macmillan, D.D., Dr. Blackie, Professor of New College, Edinburgh, Rev. B. P. Power, M.A., &c. Suitable for presents to young or old, and for such libraries as circulate books among youths and adults.

Martin Luther. Price 1s., or in cloth gilt, 2s.

Martin Luther is one of the most interesting persons to be found in the whole realm of history. He was a man of great mental integrity, and his moral courage was second to none of the world's greatest heroes. How he wrestled with and succeeded in throwing the great ecclesiastical giant, whose torpedo touch had benumbed Christendom, is shown with

great clearness and force by Julius Kœstlin in the space of 145 pages. This is a good book for Sunday and Ragged School libraries.

MESSRS. NISBET AND CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.

Strong and Free. A Book for Young Men. By the Rev. George Everard, M.A.

This book is prefaced by a recommendatory letter from Lord Shaftesbury. His words are, "I am happy to say that I venture to place it among the very best I know for the guidance of young men of every degree of social or intellectual position."

Stepping Stones to Higher Things. By Captain Seton Churchill. Price 1s. 6d.

This book has met with great praise from the religious press, and deservedly so. It discourses with great clearness and force on the great themes of love and redemption and other related topics. The *Christian* says it is especially suited for circulation among educated but unsaved people.

Infidel Objections Considered and Refuted. By the Rev. F. B. Whitmore. Price 3s. 6d.

The difficulties of the bulk of sceptics arise from perverse mental and moral estate, and little can be done with them. Christian young men who are frequently plied with infidel objections will find this book most helpful in showing them that the essential points of Christian teaching are impregnable.

The Harvest of the City. By Pearl Fisher. (Shaw and Co.) Price 3s. 6d.

This attractively got-up volume contains a series of graphic sketches of some of the evangelistic and philanthropic agencies which are exerting so much influence for good in the midst of the ignorant, the sick, the sorrowing, the crime-bestained, the depraved, the indigent, and the ragged of London. The descriptions of Ragged School work are given with a fidelity and sympathy that could not be otherwise than gratifying to us. The author, who is known to us as Mr. Thomas Paul, as well as by his pseudonym of Pearl Fisher, has keen observation, a facile pen, a compassionate heart, with much practical shrewdness begot by actual experience in Ragged School and evangelistic work. The book is worthy of a wide circulation.

Illustrations and Meditations; or, Flowers from a Puritan's Garden. By the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. (Passmore and Alabaster.)

Grave, practical, earnest, homely wisdom, suitable for the pious heart at all seasons. A man must be seeking the way or he may find the evil eye within unable to bear the sight of these pages. Not the least of its beauties are the sincerity and simplicity of the few words of prayer attached to each illustration.

Notices of Meetings.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS.

Christmas time is a joyous occasion for the children of our schools. The teachers strive to make the children share with them the happiness of the season. The Ragged School Union is able, through the kindly aid of the Tract Society, to supply the friends of the respective schools with illuminated cards, almanacks, &c., to give to each of the children, so that mind as well as body has a share of refreshment. It is impossible to report all. A few are given as samples of the rest, so that the friends of Ragged Schools may see that Christmas is a time of joy for little ones who come from poverty-stricken homes.

The number of the children and the various agencies in such schools as Fox Court, Nichol Street, Nelson Street, Morton Road, The Mount, Lamb and Flag, &c., are so numerous that it requires several evenings to accomplish the pleasant task. There is not only sumptuous tea provided, but a magic-lantern treat for instruction and entertainment also, besides which the infants are regaled with a Christmas tree and an afternoon's romp. The mothers and the old scholars come in, as will be seen, for a share of the good things.

The Young Men's Mission at Brackley Street, connected with the firm of I. and R. Morley, of Wood Street, provide hot roast beef and plum-pudding, and three huge Christmas trees laden with dolls of unusual beauty. The mothers are also liberally entertained. This year the Rev. Paxton Hood contributed in his happiest manner both by song and speech to their enjoyment.

Robin dinners, through the continued kindness of the proprietor of *Hand and Heart* (the Rev. C. Bullock), were supplied to several of our schools, among which was Nelson Street, Camberwell, superintended by Mr. J. Kirk (Ragged School Union). The elder children, about 250, were fully feasted with hot meat and abundance of plum-pudding. A romp succeeded—the room being Liberty Hall for the youngsters to make their own fun. The infants on another evening were made glad with a Christmas tree, and to the elder and younger children garments were distributed. For the mothers and fathers a good tea was provided.

King Edward Street gave a Robin dinner to about 400 boys and girls, who had as much roast beef and baked potatoes and plum-pudding as they could eat, and a capital magic-lantern entertainment into the bargain.

Lamb and Flag Schools, Red Lion Street, Clerkenwell.—The festivities, which occupied several evenings, closed with a tea and entertainment to the elder scholars, at which J. Sherrard, Esq., J.P., presided.

Field Lane had its usual dinner on Christmas Day. Many hundreds of the very poorest were provided with hot Christmas fare. The funds for this festivity were obtained through the indefatigable services of Miss Greengrass, Mrs. Pain, and the voluntary teachers and workers. There was a great gathering of friends, among whom were W. Bom-

pas, Q.C., and the Rev. E. J. Hytche, who may be called the honorary chaplain of their Ragged Church.

At Chequer Alley several hundreds of poor children were sumptuously regaled with smoking joints, luscious potatoes, and plum-pudding. Messrs. Mozer and Moore were prominent in this work of love.

Great Saffron Hill.—This excellent institution for Italian children and their parents, presided over by Professor Leone Levi, gave a tea and magic-lantern entertainment to 100 boys and girls. Mr. Meldrum explained the show.

Ogle Mews, during the season, supplies not only hot joints but warm clothing. Here may be seen Sir Robert Carden in all his glory contributing to the joy of the occasion by carving for the children, and heading a troop that carry hot plum-pudding into the room amidst frantic rejoicings.

The Costers' Mission, Hoxton, under the kind supervision of Mr. W. J. Orsman, provides dinners, teas, entertainments, and Christmas trees. Music lends its charms in the shape of a well-trained choir, and shadows of beauty flit across the curtain, while the exhibitor, in few but well-chosen words, explains the passing scene. Each of the workers receives a present of a good and suitable book.

Mount Street, Bethnal Green, and Nichol Street fed and amused each about 1,400 children. Mount Street gave to each a toy and a garment, and to those needing them strong boots, and a present of a good book to each of the workers.

Ernest Street, Mile End, devoted two evenings, as usual, for their Christmas treats. Smoking joints and plum-puddings were provided on each occasion. An entertainment of music and recitations was given on each evening by the teachers. Messrs. J. Kirk and R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, were present on one of the evenings, and contributed their mite to the evening's enjoyment, as was also on both occasions Mr. Denman, who, notwithstanding his completion of man's allotted term, shows vigour almost youthful in works of faith and labours of love.

Wilke Street, Spitalfields.—Miss Johnson, Dr. Jones, and other kind friends, chiefly from Notting Hill, year by year provide for this excellent Day School, not only plenty of good things for the body, but a capital entertainment on such a scale as to gratify the minds of the younger as well as the elder children. This year a ventriloquist was provided, who brought with him a number of figures—men, children, and a woman. By some mechanical contrivance applied to the lower jaw, it was made to move up and down, and the motion accorded with the words uttered, so that the illusion was complete. One of the figures was a country urchin that the ventriloquist took on his knee, and made go amusingly through the A B C; his mistakes were rewarded with a cuff, which was met by some saucy utterance. Another cuff or blow descended on his rattling hide, which brought almost tears of delight into the children's eyes. It was a jolly hour! His son, a boy, accompanied the illustrator, and followed suit with his father. One of the most surprising feats of skill was the singing of a trio. Among the joys of

the occasion was a pretty Christmas tree, lustrous with lighted candles, around which the little ones capered. Each child had a garment, an orange, and a toy on leaving, and the teachers had not only a nice present in the form of a writing-desk, but also a money gift. Messrs. Corkran and R. J. Curtis (Ragged School Union) moved and seconded a vote of thanks to Miss Johnson for her loving service, not only on that evening, but throughout the year.

DOVE ROW RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The annual Christmas treats took place on Wednesday and Thursday, the 16th and 17th January. That on the 16th was given to 330 elder scholars. After tea a lecture was delivered entitled "Wandering by the Sea," illustrated by dissolving views. Each scholar on leaving was presented with a copy of "Jessica's First Prayer" and an orange. On the 17th the infants' treat was held, when 195 sat down to tea, after which a former teacher in the school amused them very much with Punch and Judy, &c. Each infant on leaving received a toy, sweets, and an orange.

MILTON'S YARD MISSION.

A Musical Entertainment by Scholars.

During several months of the past year the girls attending the Night School of this Mission have derived no small amount of amusement (and it is hoped something more than amusement) from the practising of the hymns and songs contained in the service of song based on the touching story of "Christie's Old Organ." Having, it was thought, reached a fair state of proficiency, it was arranged to give a public performance of the same, which was accordingly done in the week preceding Christmas. The audience, which was intentionally small (as we have heard of "vaulting ambition o'erleaping itself"), was made up of the Sunday-school teachers and such of the parents of the singers as chose to avail themselves of the invitation. The choir numbered twenty, and got through their work in capital style. Four of the pieces were taken as solos, two being sung by the lady teacher who presided at the harmonium, and the others by the secretary, who also gave the connective readings. The service was illustrated by the beautiful set of magic-lantern slides, taken from life, published by the Stereoscopic Company, which were most generously exhibited, free of expense, by a kind friend of the Mission. A very pleasant evening was spent, and it was unanimously agreed that the girls had done so well that they might venture to offer to provide an evening's entertainment to the temperance society of the parish in which the Mission is situate. This was accordingly done, and, the offer being accepted, the entertainment was given to a good audience on January 17. The moral of our story to all other schools is, "Go thou and do likewise," and it will be found that not only can much pleasure be given to children and audience, but that at the same time the Master's gospel of peace will be preached by means of this charming little service of song.

PARKER STREET RAGGED SCHOOL.

The annual winter treat of this school, which is held on the premises of the Great Queen Street Refuge,

took place on Thursday, January 17. The children were regaled with tea, cake, and bread-and-butter. In the evening they were entertained by the exhibition of a series of dissolving views illustrative of "Jack the Conqueror" and "Jessica's First Prayer." Each child on leaving had a present of a bag containing oranges and nuts.

BREWER'S COURT MISSION, GREAT WILD STREET.

This useful operation, so long connected with Crown Court under the late Dr. Cumming, is now under a committee, of which the Hon. A. Kinnaird, W. T. Paton, and others are members. Mr. George Anderson, a very earnest missonary, is the superintendent of the work. The institution has been very kindly aided by Quintin Hogg, Esq. Harvest and Flower Services, Christmas festivities, and Children's Dinners vary the regular work of Mission Services and Schools—Sunday and Week-evening—and Sewing Classes. The Flower Service was graced by a splendid bouquet from Covent Garden. This was sent to one of the teachers, who was lying ill in a hospital. At the close of the Christmas festivities a present, consisting of a purse and nearly £5 in money, was given to Mrs. Ricketts by the teachers and elder scholars as a slight recognition of twenty-seven years' good service.

THE ST. JAMES'S PLACE RAGGED SCHOOL, NOTTING HILL,

held its annual Christmas entertainment on the 10th January. There were present 195 children and a large number of friends and teachers. The boys and girls included the Shoeblack Brigade, the Night School lads, the boys and girls of the afternoon Sunday School, and twenty-five young servant girls. The rooms were tastefully decorated. A very interesting feature of this annual gathering was the presence of the elder lads, who are now either in business houses or on board ship. Three fine-looking sailor lads from the Royal Navy, and formerly in the Shoeblack Brigade, were very noticeable; also the servant girls with their smart caps and aprons. After tea Dr. Thornton, the vicar of St. John's, Notting Hill, took the chair, and was supported by the Rev. T. J. Cross, Dr. Widdicombe, R. J. Curtis (Ragged School Union), Messrs. W. Campbell, Robertson, and Hardy, and many old friends and supporters of the school. The chairman addressed the children, and later in the evening gave the prizes, saying an appropriate and encouraging word to each boy and girl. During the addresses of the various friends the audience showed just a little impatience, because fun was expected. At the appearance of a conjuror on the platform impatience flew away, the happy faces brimming over with fun, and the roars of laughter very plainly showed how thoroughly they appreciated his tricks. "God save the Queen" was right lustily sung, and then, "Good night, teacher, we will come next Sunday," sounded on all sides, and this promise was faithfully kept.

The infant treat was held on the afternoon of the 7th February. A large Christmas tree, full of pretty presents, was a source of great pleasure to sixty babies. Each little one received a useful garment, with a present from the tree.

On 14th January the members of

the St. James's Place Mothers' Society had their usual winter treat in the Ragged School. Several of the mothers came accompanied by their husbands, and the proceedings began by a tea, at which seventy-five women and twenty-five men were present. After tea most appropriate speeches were made by the Rev. Dr. Thornton, the Rev. Claud Brown, the Rev. T. G. Crosse, Mr. R. J. Curtis, and also by the chairman, Mr. Buckingham, who remarked that he was very glad to see so many men there, it showed the attractions of such a pleasant evening were superior to those of the public-house. Mrs. Buckingham presented to each of the mothers an almanack and a neat parcel of clothing, the gifts of many kind friends. A most enjoyable entertainment, consisting of music and readings, was given by some lady friends, to whom, with Mrs. Nelson, Miss Robertson, and others, votes of thanks were heartily accorded.

KENTISH TOWN FREE RAGGED SCHOOL

now meets in the railway arch, Wilkin Street. On three successive evenings, girls, infants, and boys, respectively, were regaled with substantial repasts of tea, bread-and-butter, cake, jam and marmalade, and great was the enjoyment on each occasion. Books, framed texts, useful articles of clothing, mostly made by the school-girls, were distributed as prizes, in the presence of parents and friends, and in addition, Mr. George James and Mr. Seagrove gave away about 150 copies of the New Testament and Sankey's hymns.

RICHMOND STREET.

The success in retaining the allegiance of old scholars long past the school age is especially apparent when the anniversary takes place. The present happy occasion was no exception to this. Mr. Dunn, presided over a packed assemblage mainly composed of young men and women belonging to the Bible Classes. Hearty speeches from Mr. Barr, Mr. How, Mr. Kirk, and other friends, were interspersed with sacred song and recitation.

WALKER STREET, KENT STREET.

The Christmas treat took the form of a tea and entertainment. Mrs. Quick kindly sent some clothing for distribution. Mr. Kirk gave an address, and the master of the Night School and superintendent of the Sunday School led the children in singing and recitations.

JOHNSON'S COURT,

better known locally as the Hatch, was quite in holiday attire, with carpeted platform, banners, and festoons on the occasion of the treat. The table was laden with books and other suitable prizes. Mr. W. H. Smith, the superintendent, Mr. J. Kirk, and others, contributed to the profit and pleasure of the successful meeting.

CADOGAN STREET INSTITUTE.

A concert, varied and attractive, was provided for the youthful clients of this much-needed mission. Many friends contributed to the evening's pleasure with music, song, and recitation. The superintendent worthily filled the place of Mr. Donald Matheson, the president, who was prevented from attending, and Mr. Kirk gave an address.

NEW TOTHILL STREET SUNDAY SCHOOL

held recently its annual prize meeting. A substantial tea was provided. After tea a public meeting was held, presided over by Mr. H. T. Burgess (of the Sunday School Union). The report, which was read by the secretary, showed an increase of sixteen children during the past year. Addresses were given by Mr. Brooksby, Mr. R. J. Curtis, and Mr. A. Whitten. The prizes were then distributed by W. Fuller, Esq., who placed in each prize as he presented it a magnificent Scripture card.

The *Old Scholars' Meeting* was held on the 8th of January, when 120 were present, also many old teachers and friends. After tea the meeting was addressed by W. Fuller, Esq., R. J. Curtis, and by Messrs. Linfoot, Hann, and other friends. Mr. Fuller said it was one of the pleasantest evenings in the year to him, because he met so many who really valued the school for the good they had received in it. He gave each a book and a beautifully illuminated text. On leaving Mr. Fuller and Lady Hill, his wife, were enthusiastically cheered. The next day, Thursday, 100 infants were provided with a nice tea, and on the Friday the annual prize meeting was held. There were 111 scholars present, 37 of whom received prizes. These and the tea are kindly provided, and also presented, by a lady who takes great interest in the schools.

GRAY'S YARD.

At Gray's Yard Ragged Church and Schools, James Street, Oxford Street, a breakfast was, in accordance with a yearly custom, given on Sunday, 6th January, to about 800 destitute persons. Mr. Ernest Tritton took the chair in the hall, and a preliminary repast of coffee and bread-and-butter having been served, addresses were delivered in the several rooms by the Rev. E. W. Moore, the Rev. A. C. D. Ryder, the Rev. W. R. Mowll, Mr. George Hanbury, Dr. Routh, Dr. Habershon, Mr. R. J. Curtis (R.S. Union), and others. During the morning Miss Mary Davies sang, in the large room, two solos, and, to judge from the expressions on the faces of her listeners, the charm of her voice was by no means lost upon them. At twelve o'clock each person was supplied with a meat pie a pound in weight, a large piece of cake, and as much coffee as was desired. A large number of copies of the Gospel —the annual gift of Mr. John Morley —were distributed among those who had partaken of the breakfast.

VICTORY PLACE.

The Ragged School held in the Board School is happy in being closely identified with the Walworth Road Baptist Church. The teachers, for the most part, are members of a vigorous Young Men's Mission, which sustains, in addition to the Ragged School, open-air preaching, tract-giving, home visitation, and other evangelistic work. A *soirée* held yearly is always an interesting gathering; the present occasion was made special by artistic decoration and embellishments, executed mostly by friends as a pleasant surprise. The Rev. W. J. Mills, the pastor, gave a cordial welcome to the guests, and addresses were given by the Rev. W. Williams, the Rev. Dr. Stewart, Mr. John E. Tressider, Mr. John Kirk, and others. The report of

the various branches of work was read, and a statement was also made relative to a new building it was proposed to erect as a centre of mission work in Lock's Fields, including the Ragged School. About £800 had been collected, and it was determined to commence building as soon as £1,000 were raised.

LANSDOWNE PLACE.

Partly prompted by the example of the Ragged School Union, the friends here determined to draw their workers and supporters together at a conversazione. This was held by permission in the Pastor's College, Newington. Mr. Wilson presided. Messrs. Passmore, Pollard, J. Kirk, and other friends made speeches. Music, microscopic instruments, photographs, and other objects of interest, with a lustre lent to all by lively music, made a charming evening.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN SOUTH LONDON.

The annual meeting of the Sunday School attached to Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road, was held recently, Rev. Newman Hall in the chair. The reports presented showed the number of schools to be 13; scholars, 5,065; teachers, 376. One school is two miles distant at Dock Head. Four others are in the most populous, poor, and needy districts in South London—viz., Kent Street, the Mint, Jurston Street, and Bond Street. In addition to simple, unsectarian, evangelical Bible teaching, on Sunday, various philanthropic agencies are carried on during the week—such as Sewing Classes, Boot and Shoe, Clothing, and Music Clubs, Mothers' Meetings, Band of Hope Meetings, instructive Lectures, and Entertainments, &c. From one school thirty-seven sickly children had been sent into the country for a fortnight's change of air. Upwards of 13,000 religious periodicals had been purchased by the children. About fifty children had become members of churches. *All these rooms are utilised on Sunday evenings for Ragged Schools and Evangelistic Services.*

For nearly a hundred years in some of these schools godly men and women have been at work to mitigate the evils lately brought before the attention of the world by the "Bitter Cry."

KING EDWARD STREET RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The sixteenth annual exhibition of the work of the scholars of these schools was held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 19th, 20th, and 21st of February.

Banners and decorations of every sort in endless variety hung from the roof and ornamented the walls. The attendance was large, admission being free.

On the first and centre tables were some very pretty articles made by boys, whose skill in the manipulation of metal, cardboard, and glass would vie with that of many a full-blown artisan. Occupying positions of honour were two model round loo tables, one of brass the other of white metal, and similarly placed were two groups of copper articles of diminutive size, but most admirably made and finished. A cork castle, very deftly put together, and a cottage and grounds, provoked many remarks of admiration. There was a Chinese pagoda, and a cardboard

model of the building in which the exhibition was held.

Mr. C. J. Montague conducts a Drawing Class, and there were many exhibits by his pupils. A large chalk sketch of a brougham and pair by him, on brown paper, in black and white, was greatly admired by all the visitors.

The work of the girls deserved great praise. Some very elaborate needlework was found in the plain needlework stall, while all the exhibits went to show how useful an education both boys and girls were receiving at the school.

RICHMOND STREET, WALWORTH.

On Wednesday, 27th February, the annual meeting was held, this mission being one of the operations in connection with the Tabernacle, of which the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon is the pastor. After tea Mr. J. T. Dunn presided, and introduced the business of the evening in his usual happy manner. Reports of the various operations were read by gentlemen who superintend the departments, and whose names are appended. The reports were brief but luminous, and showed that the workers were full of enthusiasm. The room was crowded, and the interest evinced set the place all of a glow. Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, was present, and expressed his delight at what he had heard. He advised more attention to the business of training young people for the office of teacher, and to this end, he said, a course of teaching children should precede the work of preaching to adults, because it leads to definiteness and contact instead of vagueness and star-shooting.

The bones of the various reports:

Ragged School (Mr. Barr).—Officers, 5; teachers, 33; average attendance of children, 313. Finances good. 2,112 *Friendly Greetings* given for regular attendance. Five scholars obtained R.S.U. prizes. Library exchanges, 1,037 (Mr. Leonard). Receipts, £23 8s. 6d.; expenditure, £14 6s. 11d. Excursion in summer: children, 550; adults, 194. Pure Literature Society: Books sold, 1,639.

Sunday School (Mr. Llewellyn).—Teachers and officers, 39. Scholars: Morning, 89; afternoon, 315; separate service, 115; Tuesday evening, 200.

Flint Street Sunday School (Mr. Field).—Teachers and officers, 12; scholars, 160.

Mutual Improvement Society.—33 meetings. Subjects social, political, religious.

Penny Bank. — Deposits, £224 16s. 10d.; withdrawals, £221 0s. 10d.

Mothers' Meeting.—Average attendance, 64.

Tuesday Adult Service.—Attendance, 80.

Young Christians.—Attendance, 30.

Evangelists (Leaders, Messrs. Creasey and Smith). — Open-air services: large gatherings, nearly all men; much good done. Indoor services, Sunday and Thursday evenings; attendance, 60.

Band of Hope (Mr. How).—Average attendance, 55; members, 87. Receipts, £8 16s. 4d.; expenditure, £8 10s. 8d.

Christmas Dinner Fund and Tract Society (Mr. Clark).—Receipts, £26 3s. 5d.; expenditure, £22 12s. 4d. Number of persons supplied with

dinners at own homes, 514. Number at Christmas morning breakfast, 35.

OLD SCHOLARS' MEETING AT STEPHEN THE YEOMAN RAGGED SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of old scholars of Stephen the Yeoman was held in the schoolroom, Marigold Place, Marigold Street, Bermondsey, on the evening of Thursday, 6th March. There was a large attendance of men and women, the room being crowded in every corner. The proceedings commenced with a substantial tea. Later on, brief addresses were delivered by the chairman (Mr. Donald Matheson, president of the Mission), Messrs. J. W. Challis, R. J. Curtis (R. S. Union), J. I. Vezey, T. Menzies, T. Pumfrey, J. Menzies, and Rev. John Farren. These were interspersed by several songs and a recitation, which gave a great deal of pleasure. The creditable appearance of many, both men and women, spoke volumes for the good work done in Stephen the Yeoman Ragged School. In his remarks before the close, the superintendent expressed a confident hope that before the time came round for another such meeting, additional rooms would be added to the present school, which is much too small for the needs of the Mission. In this hope we cordially join.

DEPTFORD RAGGED SCHOOL.

A public meeting was held in the lecture hall, Brockley Baptist Chapel, Brockley Road, on Thursday, 7th February, in connection with the Deptford Ragged School. H. R. Williams, Esq., of the Ragged School Union, was in the chair.

The proceedings were opened by prayer by the Rev. C. J. Wetherell.

The chairman then called upon the hon. secretary of the building fund to read a sketch of the early history, struggles, and triumphs of the Deptford Ragged School (see page 68), after which the chairman addressed the meeting, and in the course of his remarks pointed out that the number of paupers and of criminals had been considerably reduced during the last forty years, and he claimed this to be greatly due to the work carried on in Ragged Schools. He then called upon the Rev. C. J. Wetherell to propose the first resolution, which was as follows:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the work hitherto carried on in the Deptford Ragged School has been a blessing to the neighbourhood, and that the continuance and extension of the work is a necessity of the times." This was seconded by G. A. Treyer Hill, Esq., and carried unanimously.

The hon. secretary then read a list of donations to the building fund.

The chairman then stated that, as he was obliged to leave the chair, he would ask Mr. Wetherell to take his place. On vacating the chair he added his name to the list of contributors for £5.

The second resolution was moved by T. W. Marchant, Esq.: "That this meeting regards the action of the committee in securing the site and proposing to rebuild as a wise and necessary step, and pledges itself to render help to the utmost of its power in raising the necessary funds," which was seconded by Mr. James Crowther, and supported by Mr. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, and carried unanimously.

General Fund.—*Continued.*

	£	s.	d.
Swaine & Co.	1	1	6
Swainman, Miss E. J.	0	5	0
Sugg, H., Esq.	3	1	0
Sutton, Mrs.	1	0	0
S. J. B.	1	0	0
Sympathy	0	5	0
Tassell, Mrs.	1	0	0
Tate, J. P., Esq.	2	2	0
Taylor, J. Wilde	0	5	0
Teissens, General de	0	10	0
Thomas, Miss Elizabeth	15	0	0
Thomson, John, Esq.	0	2	6
Thomson, Miss	0	5	0
Thompson, Miss Rachel	0	5	0
Thomas, Col.	5	0	0
Tregelles, Miss	0	5	0
Tregelles, Miss Prideaux	0	10	0
Trinder, Mr. & Mrs. G.	1	1	0
Trotter, G. D., Esq.	1	0	0
Trusted, Mrs.	0	2	6
Tryon, Fred., Esq.	1	0	0
Tulloch, J. P., Esq.	0	8	6
Turner, Mrs. L. A.	0	5	0
Tweedy, Misses E. & C.	1	0	0
Tyndall, Wm. Hy., Esq.	1	1	0
T. J. C.	2	0	0
Uawins, Rev. J. G.	2	1	0
Upton, Mrs. A. E.	1	0	0
Valiant, F.	2	10	0
Vaux, Mrs.	0	10	0
Vivian, Mr.	0	10	0
Waddington, Miss	3	0	0
Wade, Major and Mrs.	0	2	6
Wainwright, Miss	1	0	0
Wakefield, C. M., Esq.	1	0	0
Walker, Miss Mary	1	0	0
Walker, Mrs.	0	2	6
Walker, Miss	1	0	0
Walker, Mrs. E.	1	0	0
Walker, Miss	1	0	0
Walthman, Miss	10	0	0
Wallis, Mrs.	0	5	0
Waltham, E., Esq.	0	10	0
Wallace, Miss C.	0	2	6
Warder, G. W. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Ward, Mrs., per G. Holden Pyke	1	10	0
Ward, Mrs.	1	1	0
Wareham, L., Esq.	0	5	0
Ward, Lock, & Co.	1	0	0
Watts, Mrs.	0	10	0
Warrington, Mrs. R.	5	0	0
Warren, Mrs.	5	0	0
Warren, Mrs.	0	5	0
Warwick, W. R., Esq.	0	10	6
Way, Rev. H. H	2	2	0
Webb, C., Esq.	0	1	0
Webb, Mrs.	0	1	0
Webb, Miss	0	5	0
Weedon, Mrs.	1	1	0
Welch, Mr.	0	2	6
Welch, Miss	1	0	0
Wells, Percy, Esq.	0	10	6
Were, Mrs. Bouville	1	0	0
West, Miss	2	0	0
Westminster, His Grace the Duke of	10	0	0
West, F. H., Esq.	0	10	0
Webster, Mrs.	0	10	0
Wells & Co.	2	2	0
Westcott, Miss	1	0	0
Western, G. A., Esq.	10	0	0
Weston, Miss	2	0	0
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Wilson, Miss	0	10	0
Wightman, Miss	0	5	0
Wilcox, Miss S.	0	5	0
Wilde, C. N., Esq.	5	5	0
Williams, Rev. Dr.	1	0	0
Williams, J. W., Esq.	0	5	0
Williams, H. R., Esq.	50	0	0
Williams, Peter, Esq.	1	0	0
Wilson, J. R., Esq.	1	1	0
Wilson, C., Esq.	0	1	0
Wilson, Saml., Esq.	0	2	6
Wilson, Mrs.	0	5	0
Wilson, R. W., Esq.	0	4	0
Wilson, Mrs.	0	5	0
Wimbush, Mrs. H.	1	1	0
Wing, Thos. T., Esq.	0	0	0
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Winton, Thos. M., Esq.	1	0	0
Wood, Miss	0	15	0
Woolley, W. J., Esq.	1	0	0
Wood, Rev. Andrew	2	2	0
Wood, Miss	1	0	0
Wood, Mrs. M.	1	1	0
Woollaston, Miss	0	5	0
Woodward, Miss F.	0	2	0
Woodhouse, Francis V., Esq.	2	2	0
Woodfall, Hy., Esq.	1	0	0
Worsley, R., Esq.	0	2	6
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Wright, Mrs.	2	2	0
Wright, J. P., Esq.	1	1	0
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